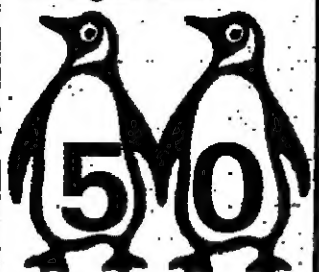


## THE TIMES Saturday

Bird in the hand  
Roy Strong presents a half-century bouquet to Penguin books



Red star  
Drink samples the pick of the 1983 clarets

Country capers  
There are problems as well as joys in having a second home in the country. Family Life explains how to handle them

Playtime 11  
John Woodcock reports on England against West Indies at Edgbaston

## Teachers to step up strikes

Strike action involving 26,000 teachers in more than 30 education authorities is to be stepped up in England and Wales next week after the refusal by local authority leaders to bring forward the date of a meeting to discuss terms for arbitration. Page 2

## Secret report

Three Bulgarians are among eight men Italian authorities want to prosecute for trying to kill Pope John Paul II three years ago. An Italian state prosecutor filed a secret report asking for the trial of five Turks and three Bulgarians in addition to Mehmet Ali Agca, the only man so far convicted of the shooting. Extensive report appears in The Times today. Spectrum, page 8

## Hero's welcome



Mr. P. W. Botha, South Africa's Prime Minister, was welcomed home as a conquering hero from his eight-nation European tour by jubilant followers. Page 5

## Space change

The Army has replaced its candidate to be Britain's first man in space because of a security investigation involving his former regiment in Cyprus. Page 2

## Police accused

Hospital consultants have accused the police and NHS auditors of breaking the confidentiality of patients' records while investigating claims that doctors are defrauding the health service. Page 3

## Snap NZ poll

New Zealand is to have a snap general election on July 14. It has been brought forward because of the defection of a backbencher. Page 5

## Jaguar surge

Jaguar cars, which is to be privatised next month, appears on course for record full-year profits after making £18m in the first quarter. Page 15

## Leader page 11

Letters: On "star wars", from Professor I. Freedman; North London Polytechnic, from Professor D. Benham and others; British diet, from Professor R. Hoffenberg; and Mr B. Edsall. Leading articles: Miners' strike; Yugoslavia. Features, pages 8-10. Why Solidarity is standing trial; rivals for the Trudeau succession; David Watt on Europe's response to a second Reagan term. Spectrum: behind the plot to kill the Pope. Friday Page: Vadim, his book and his women. Obituaries, page 12. Sir Noel Hutton, Michael Christensen. Classified: Small business, page 16; Motorcars, pages 22, 23; Personal, page 24.

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| Crossword  | 26    | TV & Radio   | 25    |
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# Miners' union will boycott proposed coal board ballot

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Sheffield

Miners' union leaders yesterday decided to boycott the National Coal Board's proposed back-to-work pithead ballot. The executive of the National Union of Mineworkers also agreed unanimously to intensify the 14-week-old "rolling" strike and to halt all coke and coal supplies to the steel industry, pending a deal with the steelworkers' union. Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, said of the ballot plan: "We shall tell our members to have nothing to do with this outside interference in the internal affairs of a free, independent and democratic trade union. To do other than that would put this union in a very difficult position indeed. Our advice will be to have nothing whatsoever to do with such tactics."

Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board's chairman, said yesterday that if there was no "positive decision" from the miners' executive to consult the men, the board "will make a decision within a week on whether to hold its own ballot". He added: "We would be ready to hold it within ten days."

The probable timing for a coal board-sponsored poll of the pitmen would be at the end of this month, or early July, barely ten days before the union's national delegate conference is reconvened for two days of policymaking, which would bring about a further prolongation of the stoppage.

Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the union, said that white-collar coal board staff had already been preparing envelopes for the home addresses of many miners, even before the collapse of the latest peace talks two days ago.

"It appears that the intention to hold a ballot was already there. They went to the meeting intent on it breaking down so they could move towards a ballot", he said.

Mr MacGregor previously used the ballot strategy to undermine the power of the steel unions to get through his "survival plan" at the state-owned British Steel Corporation. He was also a member of the BL board when its chairman, Sir Michael Edwards, pursued the same policy to go over the heads of the motor industry unions with his planned closure programme.

Both those ballots proved successful for management, but there was doubt last night that it could be easily done again in a single-union industry which has been in dispute since October 30 last year and largely strike-bound since March 12.

The union executive yesterday deplored the proposal, described by Mr Scargill as "the sinister approach of Americanism".

The union's own rule book requires that the members must give a simple majority in a secret pithead ballot before an official national strike can be mounted.

Continued on back page, col 2

| EFFECTS OF STRIKE ON COAL INDUSTRY |                      |                        |                            |                              |                                       |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Week ended                         | Last output (tonnes) | Coal produced (tonnes) | Miners' lost earnings (£m) | Planned strike (1984 tonnes) | Pts on strike/total and (est at 17th) |
| 17/3                               | 1,781,000            | 415,000                | 18.3                       | 21,967                       | 142                                   |
| 24/3                               | 1,743,000            | 468,000                | 18.8                       | 21,737                       | 132                                   |
| 31/3                               | 1,752,000 p          | 451,000                | 19.2                       | 21,723                       | 130                                   |
| 7/4                                | 1,720,000 p          | 454,000                | 18.9                       | 21,582 p                     | 122                                   |
| 14/4                               | 1,701,000 p          | 471,000                | 18.840                     | 21,849 p                     | 122                                   |
| 21/4                               | 1,533,000 p          | 444,000                | 18.975                     | 22,044 p                     | 123                                   |
| 28/4                               | 1,107,000 p          | 268,000                | 14.179                     | 21,878 p                     | 121                                   |
| 5/5                                | 1,701,000 p          | 424,000                | 18.882                     | 21,977 p                     | 122                                   |
| 12/5                               | 1,311,000 p          | 370,000                | 16.357                     | 22,053 p                     | 122                                   |
| 19/5                               | 1,708,000 p          | 451,000                | 19.070                     | 22,160 p                     | 119                                   |
| 26/5                               | 1,848,000 p          | 428,000                | 18.580                     | 22,116 p                     | 122                                   |
| 2/6                                | 892,000 p            | 101,000                | 7.320                      | 22,171 p                     | 126                                   |
| 9/6                                | 1,571,000            | n/a                    | 17.210                     | n/a                          | 122                                   |

p - provisional; - holiday week

Source: National Coal Board

## One in three defies strike, says board £120m more for pit pay-offs

By David Kelton, Labour Correspondent

The coal board's work by figures of 30 per cent of the country's coal production are also challenged with the management claiming 122 out of 176 are on strike or picketed.

Only a handful of miners in the Lancashire and south Derbyshire coalfields are said to be not reporting for work. With the exception of Coventry colliery, where 400 of the 1,200 workforce are on strike, the Warwickshire colliery is reporting almost normal working.

The largest fluctuations have been in the Lancashire colliery, where all six pits have been affected at one time or another depending on the various announcements from the area NUM leadership. An attempt to start a return to work move at Bickershaw colliery earlier this week and was met by mass picketing. Board officials express satisfaction that numbers attending for work at the colliery have gone up by 10 per cent to about 340.

There appears little evidence of a substantial move back to work although in the board's western area, covering Lancashire, Cumbria, Wales and Staffordshire, the numbers reporting for work has increased from 6,175 at the beginning of April to 8,205 now. That is estimated to represent more than half the NUM membership in the area.

Continued on back page, col 2

Police shoot two unarmed men

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The injured men, both from east London, were taken to North Middlesex Hospital. One had an operation and was described later as being in a stable condition, while the second was moved to an orthopaedic hospital after doctors feared there might be partial paralysis of the spine.

Both had been hit by a single bullet.

Commander Frank Carter, head of the Central Robbery Squad, will conduct an inquiry into the police operation and report to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The police were in the most office, in Seven Sisters Road, Tottenham, because earlier in the week a woman employee had reported to Mr Michael Conery, the owner, that she thought she was being followed.

Yesterday, Mrs Margaret Simmonds, the manager, arrived shortly after 8am. Mr Conery said: "She went in with two officers. She went behind the security screen, opened up the rear office and as she opened up the kitchen at the rear she saw some men, screamed and started to run."

Scotland Yard said the detectives then shot two men and arrested them.

## Why a diffident duke spoke out against smoking

By Rupert Morris

The Duke of Gloucester was in relaxed mood yesterday as his children played on the lawn of Kensington Palace and he reflected on his maiden speech in the House of Lords on Wednesday. He had broken 10 years of silence with a forthright denunciation of the evils of smoking and it was evident that he had got something off his chest.

"I feel rather different about speaking at all," explained this mild bespectacled man who is eleventh in line to the throne. "There are not many subjects about which I think I've got more to say than any other."

Smoking, however, is different. It is not a party political issue and it was an occasion when he could happily reconcile his conscience with his public duty to be non-controversial.

"I think this was the right occasion to speak. It was the fourth report of the Royal College of Physicians and the pathetic thing is that it's so like the first one. Doctors can only report then it's up to the politicians, and the trouble is that there is a very powerful force moving in the opposite direction."

The Duke, who has never smoked or drunk alcohol, likened the work of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), the anti-smoking group of which he is patron, against the multi-national cigarette companies, to David's struggle against Goliath.

He said that smoking killed 100,000 people a year in Britain, far more than any comparable agent of death, such as the IRA. It was not good enough for the older generation to surrender to their addiction, thereby allowing another generation to become addicted. He wanted government action to spell out the dangers far more clearly.

The duke, who is 40 in August, is not often drawn into public controversy. In spite of being a qualified architect, unlike the Prince of Wales, he has chosen not to be drawn into the debate in modern architecture.

He said that the Prince of Wales had expressed a widely-felt view about modern architecture, although he thought architects were not entirely to blame.

"The absurd thing about being a duke or a prince is that you are a professional ignoramus. You are not really trained for anything for that reason I suppose you can sometimes represent the man in the street where politicians cannot."

Normally the duke does not like upsetting people, but this time he did not mind if some people thought him a kill joy. "I do have some vices," he said, taking another piece of chocolate cake.



Lloyd, England's opening batsman, falls and leaves the field (bottom left) after being hit during the first Test at Edgbaston by a ball from Marshall, the West Indian bowler. He will be in hospital for at least a week with impaired vision. (Photographs: Ian Stewart; John Woodcock, page 20).

## Israel seeks British arms technology link

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government of Mr Yitzhak Shamir has proposed to Britain that the two countries should undertake joint development of weapons and military technology.

A senior Israeli defence source told The Times that the plan for Anglo-Israeli cooperation along similar lines to that envisaged between Israel and the United States was put forward during the 90-minute meeting in London early last week between Mr Michael Heseltine, the British Defence Minister, and his Israeli counterpart Mr Moshe Arens. No British answer has yet been given.

The Israeli proposal is understood to have been phrased in general terms and not to have mentioned any specific projects. "It is something that is now under consideration in London, and which we shall follow up at a later stage", the source said.

He explained that Mr Arens' scheme would involve a combination of Israeli know-how - particularly that derived from its experience in the recent Lebanon war - and Israeli personnel combined with British finance and certain specialized forms of British military technology.

As an example of the type of joint development project which might be considered, the source cited the drones or pilotless spy aircraft which Israel has refined for reconnaissance missions over Lebanon.

The proposal comes at a time of significant improvement in the atmosphere between the two governments over defence. Previously, relations were badly soured as a result of the British disapproval of the June 1982 invasion of Lebanon and subsequent siege of West Beirut.

Embargo says: The Ministry of Defence in London said last night that no collaborative projects have been agreed as a result of Mr Arens' call on Mr Heseltine.

A spokesman said: "Defence relations with Israel are limited and are confidential between the governments."

## Low turnout by British voters in Euro-election

By David Cross and Richard Ford

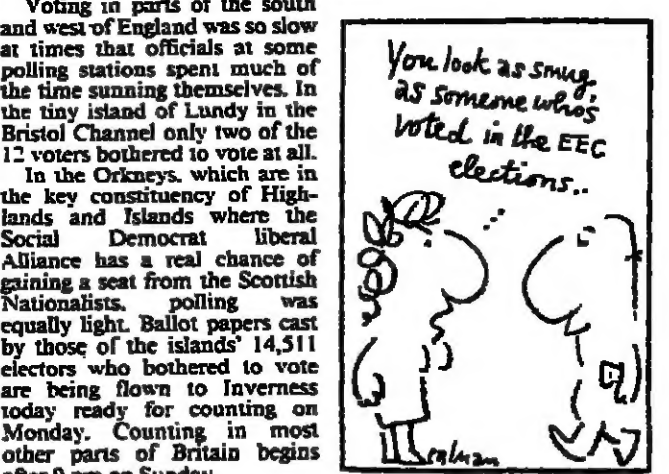
The Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, yesterday set a good example to the British electorate by voting early in the European elections. But, as expected, the uninspiring campaign fought by the political parties and general apathy about the European Community produced a low turnout across most of the country.

Voting in parts of the south and west of England was so slow at times that officials at some polling stations spent much of the time sunning themselves. In the tiny island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel only two of the 12 voters bothered to vote at all.

In the Orkneys, which are in the key constituency of Highlands and Islands where the Social Democrat liberal Alliance has a real chance of gaining a seat from the Scottish Nationalists, the polling was equally light. Ballot papers cast by those of the islands' 14,511 electors who bothered to vote are being flown to Inverness today ready for counting on Monday. Counting in most other parts of Britain begins after 9 pm on Sunday.

In London and the South-east, most polling stations reported a very slow start. In one community centre in Greenwich only four voters had cast their ballots by 7.30 am compared with about 20 at last year's general election.

In Northern Ireland, where the turnout was expected to be greater than other parts of the United Kingdom, the calm was shattered by two shooting incidents. A polling agent for the Social Democratic and Labour Party and his wife were threatened by a caller at their home in Ardara, Co Tyrone. It is understood that they were warned not to take part in the election but after an argument through a bolted door the stranger ran off when a legally held shotgun was fired.



You look as smug as someone who's voted in the EEC elections.

## Phone poll predicts higher Danish vote

By Our Foreign Staff

Turnout in Denmark, where voters also went to the polls yesterday, was expected to be a marked improvement on the last European elections in 1979. A preliminary telephone poll of voters carried out for Danish Radio News estimated that about 60 per cent of Danes were voting compared with 47.8 per cent five years ago.

The same poll also forecast a polarization of the vote with anti-EEC and pro-EEC parties running neck and neck.

The last minute poll confirmed the general trend of other pre-election surveys which forecast a 35 per cent vote for anti-EEC parties, principally the Popular Movement Against EEC, and 36 per cent for the pro-EEC government parties, notably the Conservatives and the Liberals. The opposition Social Democrats and another parties which are lukewarm about the Community would seem to be the losers in the Danish elections with only 25 per cent of the vote.

In 1979 pro-EEC parties were supported by 35 per cent of the electorate and anti-EEC parties by 33 per cent of voters.

In the Netherlands, the fourth EEC member state to vote yesterday, the European elections were overshadowed by Wednesday night's decision in the Dutch parliament to deploy cruise missiles, albeit under certain strict conditions.

The elections are seen as a test for the centre-right coalition on both cruise and the Government's economic austerity programme. In advertisements published during the past few days, the opposition Labour Party has called on Holland's ten million voters to cast a decisive vote against the deployment of American-made missiles and the Government's economic programme.

The Dutch are traditionally keen Europeans and the turnout in 1979 was nearly 60 per cent. But with rain sweeping much of the country yesterday, many voters were believed to have stayed at home.

The other six members of the Community - France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and Greece - all go to the polls on Sunday.

## Follow the Leader

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# Consultants accuse police of 'trawling' patients' records in fraud checks

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Hospital consultants yesterday accused the police and National Health Service auditors of breaching the confidentiality of patient's records in investigating claims that consultants are defrauding the health service of private practice income.

The police were accused of conducting "fishing" expeditions through the notes of thousands of patients which could contain information about abortions, mental illness and other confidential matters.

Auditors ordered to 35 health districts by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, were also combing through thousands of records, questioning staff and patients, the consultants said.

The auditors were brought in after police investigations were launched into allegations against consultants at two hospitals, Good Hope, in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands and the Prince Charles in Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan.

The allegations were made at the British Medical Association's annual consultants' conference in London which said that it was appalled at the reports. Leaders of the association are to seek an urgent meeting with the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr John Chawner, chairman of the Welsh consultants, said he believed that up to 60,000 patients' records had been read by teams of police in the Prince Charles hospital investigation. Patients were being visited in their homes and asked if they really received treatment.

One woman with cancer, he claimed, had been asked by the police if she really did have the disease, or if perhaps her consultant had "made it up". That, he said, was reprehensible.

He understood that the police had not obtained a court order for access to the notes. They were breaching an agreement between the association, chief constables and the Home Office that notes could be read only in serious crimes such as murder and rape.

"It is one thing to investigate allegations against an individual consultant with a court order for disclosure of information. It is quite another to look through the records of many thousands of patients covering perhaps dozens of consultants," Mr Chawner said.

Mr James Appleby, a consultant paediatrician in Kent, said that the trawling through records was "the most shocking abuse of individual patients' rights I have ever heard of. If these records are to be made available to the police, our patients will never be able to confide in us. It will totally affect the way we are able to run patient care."

It underlined the position the association had adopted over the confidentiality of notes and the powers of the police in the Data Protection and Police and Criminal Evidence Bills.

Dr Maurice Burrows, chairman of the consultants' committee, said that doctors had no objection to specific allegations being investigated. "We are not in the business of protecting the fraudulent or shielding the dishonest."

## Health drive in Scotland, the 'sick man of Europe'

A campaign costing £500,000 a year to woo Scots away from self-inflicted ill-health is to be launched in August, promoted by the Scottish Health Education group and designed by an Edinburgh advertising agency (Ronald Faux writes).

The campaign will bring together five separate health-promotion exercises ranging from discouraging smoking to preventing immunization.

In health circles, Scotland is slightly referred to as the sick man of Europe because of a record of heavy smoking, hard drinking, dental decay and bad diet. The slogan attacking this image says: "Be all you can be" and ends "Go for good health."

It is designed as optimistic encouragement to those whom it may concern, from the pale and paunchy to those further down that slope where so many Scots allegedly slip.

Mr Richard Dickson, the account director of advertising agency, Woolward & Reynolds, said there would be extensive newspaper and television advertising promoting a healthy lifestyle.

A pilot scheme, entitled "Walk About a Bit" which will be followed by the full-scale and long-term effort to improve Scottish health has been highly successful. More than 20 walks of between two and six miles have been organized and thousands of Scots joined in.



Mr Angus yesterday: Membership restored.

## Ban lifted on judo champion

Ronald Angus, aged 27, the all-England judo champion, who was banned from competitions last December for suspected drug taking, has been restored to membership of the British Judo Association.

His reinstatement was announced in the High Court in London yesterday after the association admitted that its life ban, without giving him a hearing, was against the rules of natural justice.

Mr Justice Warner approved terms for the disposal of Mr Angus's action against the association for a declaration that its decision to ban him for life from competitions and suspend him from membership for five years, was in breach of natural justice.

Mr Angus, of Aubrey Road, Crouch End, north London, who holds dual British and Canadian nationality, won the all-England championship on December 3. Eleven days later the association banned him.

A statement issued after the court hearing on behalf of Mr Angus and the association said he had been undergoing treatment for nasal congestion since the late 1970s.

In 1983 he was prescribed the decongestant, Sudafed, by his Canadian doctor, who assured him that the drug did not contain any substance banned by the sporting bodies and that it would not affect his performance.

However, Sudafed contained the drug Pseudo-Ephedrine, which was a banned substance, the statement said.

## Sinclair displays modified QL

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

The modified QL Sinclair microcomputer was displayed for the first time yesterday at the Earls Court Computer Fair, west London.

Despite a two-month backlog on orders and development problems which have limited deliveries to 4,000 since its launch in January, Sinclair was accepting orders.

The Quantum Leap aimed at the sophisticated home user of small businesses, had been plagued with problems affecting its operating software (programs). A small compensating device was attached to the early deliveries of the machine.

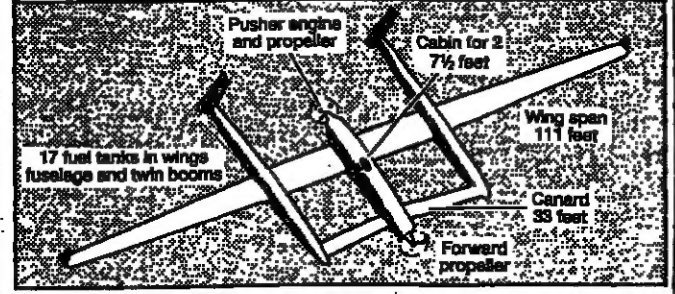
The compact design has been completed in recent weeks, but only a few hundred have been delivered.

The machine, which sells for £400 in Britain, will be launched for \$499 (£355) in the United States this autumn.

When unveiled in January the QL attracted 500 orders a day. The production target was to be 20,000 a month by mid summer, but that appears to have slipped because of the unforeseen development problems.

The computer is due to be launched in Europe next spring. Sinclair has just announced a sales operation in France and West Germany.

The exhibition at Earls Court ends on Sunday. Admission is £3 for adults.



Fueled for flight: The first round the world powered flight without refuelling will be attempted next spring by this machine under construction in California. (Michael Bally writes).

Crewed by a man and a woman, the journey is expected to take 12 days. Rutan Aircraft is building the Rutan Voyager out of composite materials, such as carbon graphite and glass fibre, to give high strength with low weight.

To conserve fuel, speed will be limited to 130 knots for the first two days and then 70 knots from the rear engine only.

## Disabled athletes assemble for international contest



Competitors preparing for the International Games for the Disabled being held in Nassau County, New York, gathered at Stoke Mandeville Sports Centre for the Disabled in Buckinghamshire yesterday so that United States immigration and customs officials could clear them in advance.

Mr Robert Brown and Mr Ernie Davies arrived by Concorde earlier this week for the goodwill operation. "We are delighted to be part of it," Mr Brown said.

The 150 disabled athletes, many unable to walk, others blind, with more than 50 escorts, left Heathrow on two scheduled flights later. Their vast container of luggage and equipment, including sporting rifles, javelins and racing wheelchairs capable of about 20 mph, had already been cleared through United States customs. More than

50 nations are taking part in the games. Photograph: Bill Warhurst

Efforts were made last night to get a new passport for one of the competitors, Mr Barrie Antonio, after thieves broke into his car in Berkshire and stole his passport and Olympic uniform.

## Chancellor urged to cut car tax

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The British motor industry has told the Chancellor of the Exchequer that it will not be able to reduce car prices in line with European prices or reach its full potential as an export market until he removes the discriminatory 10 per cent car tax.

Mr George Turnbull, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, told the society's annual meeting in London yesterday that it was of little use for the Chancellor to exhort industrialists to do better when the country's largest manufacturing industry was handicapped in this way.

He had drawn the Chancellor's attention to Germany where the total tax on new cars was 14 per cent compared with the British total of 24.6 per cent which comprises value added tax and the car tax.

He said this represented an extra taxation burden of £1,300m. In addition, German companies could deduct VAT on cars bought for business use and workers could claim an income tax allowance for travel to and from work whether by car or by public transport.

British car makers were disappointed with the short-term view taken by the Treasury of the need to maintain the special car tax.

## Sunday trading 'boon to DIY'

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Britain's leading do-it-yourself retailer forecast yesterday that volume trade would increase between 18 and 27 per cent if the Government freed Sunday trading, after the report of a committee of inquiry which is expected to go to the Home Secretary next month.

B & Q, part of Woolworth, could look to that effect in its stores in England and Wales, according to Mr Malcolm Parkinson, marketing director, who is also chairman of the Sunday trading committee of the Federation of DIY Retailers.

The federation has been pressing for abolition of the Shops Act of 1950 which restricts Sunday and late week-day opening hours.

An option with such a trading increase would be to reduce prices and there the effect could be a 10 per cent cut, Mr Parkinson suggested. More likely prices would be held for a longer period than would otherwise be the case and company profit margins might benefit, at least for a time.

In Scotland, where Sunday trading hours are unrestricted, B & Q has not cut prices. But that was because it had a national pricing policy, Mr

Parkinson said. Trading volumes at its Scottish stores have increased but not at the levels that could be expected in England and Wales.

B & Q and other federation members have been opening on Sundays in England and Wales and collecting hundreds of court fines through flouting the law in a campaign to get the Shops Act investigated.

As a result, Sunday is already their second most busy trading day. The volume increases, Mr Parkinson forces would come largely from the freedom to promote Sunday opening.

## English population likely to reach 48.6m by 2001

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The population of England is expected to rise slowly from 46.8 million by 2001, an annual increase of 0.15 per cent, according to the latest projections from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

There are wide regional variations, however. East Anglia is the fastest growing area with an average increase of 1.4 per cent a year, nearly ten times the national average, while the population of the North and North-west is expected to decline.

During the 20-year period, the greatest growth is expected in a semi-circular band round

the west and north of London, with Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk all expected to increase by at least 1.5 per cent.

The densely populated metropolitan counties of Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Midlands and Tyne and Wear face - the greatest population losses, while Cleveland, co Durham and Greater London are also set to decline. Bradford and Rotherham, however, are expected to grow by almost 10 per cent.

Population Projections by Area 1981-2001, Series PP3 No 5, Stationery Office, £5.20.

## Royal rings mine to offer shares

By Derek Pain

Shares in the Welsh mine which has provided the gold for royal wedding rings for more than 50 years will be floated on the Stock Exchange next week.

Clogau Gold Mines, based in Gwynedd, is raising money to pay for a two-year exploration and development programme.

More than £2m will be raised by the sale of the shares at 30p each. At the sale price the company, whose chairman is Lord Harlech, is valued at £4.2m.

Gold has been produced at the mine since 1860.

## North Sea mussel's sex life curbed

By David Young

The rather delicate problem of the sex life of the North Sea mussel, which has been exercising the minds of marine biologists and oil engineers for the past ten years, has been solved, by putting it on a slippery slope to celibacy.

The problem has been that the North Sea mussel has been too promiscuous, clinging to the legs of oil and gas rigs and breeding at such a rate that within months potentially dangerous clumps build up.

The weight of mussels involved can cause structural

problems, and routine inspection work by divers is delayed while the mussels are chipped away. Clearing the clumps can add £150,000 to the cost of a rig inspection.

Now, after seven years of development, Shell has introduced Aquatex, a silicone rubber coating which slowly releases an oil. It seeps to the surface, making it impossible for mussels and other marine life to cling on. The mussels float off on the tide.

Mr John Patterson, Shell's

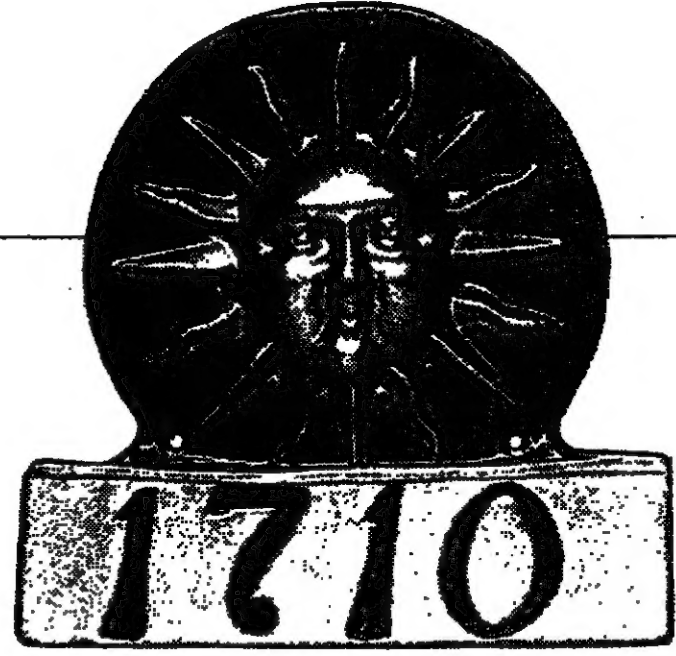
## Women accuses gas board of discrimination

A comment in notes found after a woman was interviewed for a job showed a flippant and sexist attitude by a member of an all-male gas board panel, a Liverpool industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Mrs Patricia Evans, aged 47, of Liverpool Road, Chester, was interviewed for the post of manager at the British Gas showroom in Chester.

She is claiming that she was turned down because of sexual discrimination. The notes contained the words "a good screw".

Judgment was reserved.



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## PARLIAMENT June 14 1984

## Britain on track for lower inflation

## THE ECONOMY

Britain was on track for a further reduction in inflation, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in the Commons. The country had the best mix of steady growth and low inflation that it had had for a long time. We intend (he said) to keep it that way.

The Chancellor said that over the 12 months to April, the retail price index had risen by 3.2 per cent. The Government wanted to see the inflation rate still lower and was determined to see it go down again.

The rate of growth of the money supply over the last six to 12 months had been well inside target range and a CBI survey showed a significant decline in the number of firms expecting to increase prices.

There was no reason to believe Labour Party spokesmen because all their economic forecasts had proved wrong in the past, included the claim by Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on the economy and economic matters, that inflation would have reached double figures by the end of 1983.

Mr Edward Leigh (Conservative and Horncastle, C): Does the fact that the average retail price index figure for the three months to April was 3.2 per cent higher than for the same period last year, and the annualized rate of inflation was 5.6 per cent, demonstrate that the Government's determination to curb the ravages of inflation through controlling the money supply and public expenditure growth?

Mr Lawson: No. Seasonal patterns vary, but the average is in accordance with forecasts I made in

the Budget of 4.5 per cent inflation by the last quarter of this year. It is always particularly dangerous to take three months and analyse it as the last Labour Government discovered.

This Government continues to put the battle of inflation at the forefront of its policies by continued fiscal and monetary discipline. I was heartened that this was endorsed by all nations at the recent summit.

Mr Denis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): If Mr Lawson is concerned about inflation movements all over the world, why is he party to the idea of building out the Argentinean banks where inflation is more than 500 per cent? Why does he not look after British industry?

Mr Lawson: I am looking after British industry with great assistance from British industry and less from him.

There is no question of bailing out foreign countries. What we hope is that the Argentine Government will reach agreement with the IMF. On the basis of which the Argentine Government will take measures to put its house in order. If it does not, it will clearly not qualify for assistance from the IMF.

Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C): Do we have any indication that the recovery after the recession is more than a temporary phenomenon? Is it only on the basis of the unemployment which we all desire so much can be achieved?

Mr Lawson: He is right. That is an absolute pre-condition for sustained recovery and the creation of new jobs. There are other ways in which we seek to promote conditions in which new

jobs would be created: by making the economy work more efficiently and effectively, more privatization and changing the tax system, as I did in the Budget, in a way more favourable to employment.

Dr Oonagh MacDonald, an Opposition spokesman: How does he expect us to believe him about the anticipated growth rate this year when total production stagnated in the first quarter, is likely to fall in the second and is well below 1979 levels?

Mr Lawson: This country's gross domestic product and the continuing output of the economy at present are at an all-time high and markedly above 1979 levels.

● The United Kingdom's economic growth rate last year was the fastest in the European Community and it was expected that the UK would top the league this year, Mr Lawson said during other exchanges.

Mr Trevor Skeet (Bedfordshire North, C): Is there not a anxiety about manufacturing industries generally? Will they be able to maintain their performance in the next 10 years?

Mr Lawson said tributes were deserved by British industry, commerce, manufacturing, investment, the City of London and the North Sea oil industry.

I have no reason to doubt the strength and the robustness of the recovery, not least in British manufacturing industry.

In the six months to March manufacturing industry's investment rose by 9½ per cent, and the most recent survey from the Department of Trade and Industry on the investment intentions of

manufacturing industry shows an increase of 12 per cent this year.

Mr Bryan Gould (Dagenham, Lab) referred to the report of the Select Committee on Trade and Industry on the deficit in trade and manufactured goods with the EEC.

This year, he said, that deficit was already running at over £9 billion. That is the definitive judgment on the Government's economic policy (he said).

Mr Lawson replied that it was absurd to pick out one component from the balance of payments. The current account on the balance of payments last year showed a surplus of nearly £3 billion and Britain was in surplus again this year and expected to remain so.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C): It is the Americans who are the deficit year and it brings some downturn in the American economy in 1985, 86, and the onset of a new recession, albeit mild, has he plans for some easing of monetary restraint here to compensate for the downturn in the United States and the Western economy generally which may result?

Mr Lawson said it was a bit difficult to speculate what was likely to happen in 1985, let alone beyond that.

It is true the Americans intend to reduce their deficit in 1985 and 1986, and that is all to the good. But it does not follow there will be any downturn in the American economy.

Our recovery began in 1981 in the wake of a Budget which reduced our Budget deficit substantially to one of the lowest in the industrialized

world. We have kept it low and the recovery has kept going.

Dr Oonagh MacDonald: The Americans have already achieved a growth rate of 6 per cent this year, far in excess of his expectations, by increasing public expenditure, especially on welfare.

Mr Lawson: There are certain advantages from having an economy and a society which has public expenditure which is only 35 per cent of its GDP, and no Socialist party (laughter).

● Economic recovery was well under way, with growth at 3 per cent in 1983 and forecast growth of a further 3 per cent in 1984, Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab): He is pleased or anxious that a 3 per cent growth rate appears to be going hand in hand with continuing high levels of unemployment?

Mr Rees: We would prefer to see unemployment going down, but I do not know what conclusions to draw from his proposition. We are content that our growth rate is one of the highest in western Europe.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, will be saying in simple language whether the Government anticipates a substantial fall in unemployment between now and the end of this Parliament.

Mr Rees: Clearly we are as concerned as the Opposition to see that unemployment is reduced. He should recall another of his telling phrases in a speech which describes the country's unemployment concept but doubts their capacity.

## PM appeals to miners to think again and return to work

## COAL DISPUTE

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, resolutely maintained throughout another stormy question time exchange in the Commons that she would not intervene in the miners' dispute. She said that the strike had been unnecessary from the start, repeated more than once that the miners were divided, and appealed to those on strike to reconsider their position and return to work.

She also disclosed that, according to Mr Ian MacGregor, Chairman of the National Coal Board, more miners had already volunteered for redundancy than were needed to meet the target for reduction of manpower in the pits this year.

She warned that more pits could be closed through damage caused by the strike than the NCB envisaged closing.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, started the exchanges when he said: Following the breakdown of the pit peace talks, does the Prime Minister propose to continue her pretence that she is simply sitting on the sidelines watching the damage continue, or will she now do all she possibly can to encourage the honourably negotiated settlement which would clearly be in the national interest?

Mrs Thatcher: No, I will not have a meeting at No 10 and call both sides together in any way. This strike was always unnecessary. It has gone on too long and I hope those men on strike will think carefully about their positions and return to work.

There must be closures on economic capacity just as much as there must be development of new pits and new coal mines. The longer this strike goes on, the greater the danger to the pits left unworked. More pits could be closed through being damaged beyond repair than envisaged for closure by the NCB.

The package on offer to the miners is extremely generous. The coal industry has a prosperous future ahead of it and miners should get back to work to take advantage of these excellent prospects.

Mr Hattersley: She flatters herself. Nobody is suggesting for a moment that pit peace talks should be held under her chairmanship or could possibly succeed under the chairmanship of someone so pathologically opposed to trade unions.

What we are asking and what I

am asking her to say today, is that she will not prevent the coal board from entering into negotiations with a flexibility which is essential if there is to be lasting peace?

Mrs Thatcher: He cannot possibly have read the statement put out by the chairman of the National Coal Board this (Thursday) morning. I do not blame him for that; we cannot be all up to date (Conservative laughter). He says: "We are willing to sit down as a matter of urgency with all the unions to discuss a revision of the Plan for Coal." And Mr MacGregor went on: "I have already made public what we are willing to do if we tackle our corrupt problems

and now it has gone up from 20p to £1.50. There are obviously three files here. Why is the Prime Minister not telling people what the Government is planning for them?"

Mrs Thatcher: I have just been asked by Mr Hattersley to intervene and I persisted and will continue to persist to refuse.

I said on April 18 1979 that I doubt very much whether any responsible government could say that over a period of five years regardless of any change in the value of money, that it would not set up prescription wages. Mr Haynes must not confuse his questions to what he reads in the newspapers.

Mr Anthony Blair (Sedgefield, Lab): How can the Prime Minister credibly maintain that she has not intervened in the coal dispute when British Rail is instructed to settle its wage claim to gain tactical advantage over the miners and talks in terms of no surrender as if it was a military campaign in the South Atlantic?

The criticism is not that she has not intervened, but that her intervention has been to prolong and not to settle the dispute.

Mrs Thatcher: Those who are prolonging the dispute are those who called out the miners in the first place. A quarter of the miners did not listen and continued to go to work.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C): It is a pity that the Staffordshire miners who continue working cannot look to Mr Hattersley for moral support. His political career makes the Vicar of Bray a model of consistency (laughter).

Mrs Thatcher: I agree wholly with Mr Cormack about the last part. The Labour Party will always encourage anyone who is on strike and in this strike the miners are divided. Many miners continue to work and I hope that the rest will return. In the end, the excellent conditions offered in pay.

I understand from what Mr MacGregor said this morning that more miners have applied for voluntary redundancy than are needed to meet the target for reduction of manpower this year. This Government has put money into the industry because it believes in the future of the industry.

Mrs Thatcher (she added later) would prefer the railways to come out on strike, rather than staying at work and earning honourable money for their families.

## Emphasis is moving from tail to teeth

## DEFENCE

The statement of the defence estimates for 1984 reaffirmed the Government's commitment to NATO and continued conviction that the Alliance must have first call on Britain's defence resources.

Lord Trefgarne, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said when opening the defence debate in the House of Lords.

The main challenge would continue to come from the Warsaw Pact, he said, and the Government believed the collective security achieved through Nato provided the best defence.

The Government remained committed to playing its full part in ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Alliance while at the same time remaining determined to achieve progress on arms control and seeking a better understanding with the Soviet Union.

The Government's aim was security at the lowest possible level of resources. It wanted to see a positive result in the various arms negotiations, and the speedy resumption of those now suspended.

There had been substantial growth in the defence budget since 1979. The figure for 1984/85 of £17,000 million meant more spending per capita in absolute terms on defence than any of the allies except the United States.

Within the finite resources available, the Government was seeking the best from the fighting capability, with emphasis moving from the support tail to the teeth of the actual fighting capability.

The size of the Trident force would be the minimum necessary to provide a deterrent which would last into the next century. Its cost of £8,700 million had not changed other than for inflation or exchange rate fluctuations, and more than half the sum would be spent in Britain.

The Government was convinced that expenditure on conventional

equipment could not produce the same deterrent value of Trident.

Lord Boston of Faversham, for the Opposition, said one fear of many experts was that by spending so much on Trident our conventional forces would be weakened when there was growing support for deterring possible Soviet aggression by getting a better balance of conventional forces in Europe.

There were grave and genuine doubts about the Trident programme and the Government should at least have a look at this and make a fresh assessment. There was still a good deal of uncertainty about the dual key and control of United States missiles in Britain.

Lord Kinnear (SDP) said there should be a re-examination of Trident. He said it was necessary to choose a successor to the Polaris system.

Lord Carver (Ind), a former Chief of the Defence Staff, said a far more radical approach to defence procurement within Nato was needed. If a strong combined European effort could be achieved, the US firms would be able to achieve different European nations and their firms would have to specialize and stop trying to compete with each other in everything.

He hoped that the resuscitation of Western European defence co-operation would be a reality. France, Germany, Italy and Britain were the key countries. If Holland could be brought along as well, with its important electronics industry, all the better. These countries could agree it did not greatly matter if the other members of Nato did not. The necessity to reach agreement with all of them could make much too unwieldy an organization.

If the Defence Secretary wished to make a European defence fund, he appeared to wish to do, he should turn his attention to the need for a radical international approach to defence procurement on the lines suggested instead of mucking about with the chiefs of staff.

He believed anxieties over the effect on the arts of the abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties had been reduced by the announcement of an extra £54m from central funds for support. Lower tier councils should also pick up some of the responsibility and arts activities of an essentially local nature should look to local support.

I cannot yet announce the arrangements in each case (he added), but satisfactory arrangements will be made to maintain the important provision of museums whose sources of funding will have to change with the abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties.

In a period when great restraint had to be applied to total public expenditure, the Government had recognized the need to maintain a substantial allocation of resources for heritage purposes. The provision for 1984-85 was £64m.

The Government intended to provide a heritage exemption from VAT. The Government therefore intended to move an amendment to the Finance Bill which would allow a substantial relief to the owners and developers of these historic buildings included in the statutory list compiled by the Secretary of State. It was a substantial concession.

The Government, with the advice of Lord's committee, was aware of the potential of the Chatham Historic Dockyard, and with the cooperation of Kent County Council, had facilitated the setting up of a private trust to manage and promote the yard under the concept of a living day.

The Government had given the trust an endowment of over £1m but it would be for the trust to secure its own sources of longer-term commercial and institutional investment.

The setting up of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission had not affected the Government's responsibility for the care and management of the Royal Palaces and opening the so-called "unoccupied" palaces to the public. He included the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace and Kensington Palace.

These palaces were big business and their revenue earning capacity must flourish to contribute towards the cost of their upkeep.

We will shortly be appointing a commercial manager seconded from the private sector (he said) to assume responsibility for the trading operation at the palaces, to build on last year's achievement of an increase in sales receipts of 28 per cent. We hope that he will bring the necessary commercial expertise to enlighten, display and presentation and to improve the range and quality of goods sold.

His department had also commissioned consultants to undertake historic surveys of the Royal Parks. Most of the reports had been received and his department was considering them. The exercise

## Private sponsorship not subsidy

## THE ARTS

It would be unrealistic to expect a substantial increase in arts expenditure in the near future, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said when opening a Commons debate on the arts and heritage.

Instead, the Government believed there were significant opportunities for support from other sources, notably business sponsorship.

The new business sponsorship incentive scheme offered to contribute 25 per cent for every 75 per cent put down by business. Such a scheme could unlock vast amounts of money for the arts from commercial sources.

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Mr Norman Buchan, Opposition spokesman on the arts said the Government had moved with political pique to deal with Mr Livingstone by abolishing the GLC and the metropolitan county councils without any idea of what structures were going to take their place.

Local authorities were facing an intolerable dilemma. They would have to choose between old people's homes and quarters, between schools and theatres. They were being asked to match funds from the Arts Council but they did not have the money.

There was great fear in the arts about the consequences of rate-capping, cutting and abolition.

Under this Government the future for the arts was grim. Labour would have a ministry of arts and communications in the widest sense, covering music, theatre, and dance as well as broadcasting, cable television and films.

For the first time they would have a powerful ministry in defence of the arts because the minister would be the Arts Council should be made more representative and should contain elected representatives of various areas of activity, both local government and the Arts Council would also abolish VAT on the arts.

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Mrs Thatcher: Naturally, we take exception to the terms of the joint communiqué by Spain and Argentina on Gibraltar and the Falklands. Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons.

Mr John Stalker (Hastings and Stourbridge, C) had asked if she had read the declaration in Madrid about the respective claims to the Falklands and Gibraltar.

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## Argentina and Spain criticized

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# Falklands today: Lewin thinks back, Argentina looks ahead

By Alan Hamilton

Twice in his life Lord Lewin has seen a convoy set sail to free a beleaguered island. The first occasion provided an invaluable lesson for the second.

As a naval officer sailing to Malta in 1942, he saw more than half his convoy lost through enemy action, but the remainder managed to bring relief to an island which otherwise would surely have capitulated.

Sitting in the War Cabinet Room of the House of Commons in 1982 as Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, Chief of the Defence Staff, he felt able to reassure the Prime Minister that the task force could repossess the Falklands despite the loss of ships.

Tall, softly spoken, and now retired to the calmer waters of the House of Lords, he said on the eve of yesterday's second anniversary of the Argentine surrender, that he never for a moment doubted that the task force would achieve its objective. His greatest regret remains that it had to set sail at all.

He said he had great sadness that the Falkland Islands had to be seen as a classic failure of the consequences of a political will and the military capability to deter his aggression.

The Argentines obviously thought that we did not have the will.

"It was a fault of the politicians, not a military failing, to allow the Argentines to think that their aggression would succeed."

Lord Lewin remains thoroughly convinced that the Falklands operation holds implications far beyond the South Atlantic. "I regret enormously the dead and wounded - on both sides - but it was a worthwhile exercise for the future of the free world."

Although the Falklanders are clearly important, the absolute

## It is vital that aggression must not be seen to succeed

When the Argentine invasion force landed, Lord Lewin was in New Zealand, watching military exercises, but he was back in Whitehall within 28 hours.

He was uniquely well prepared. At home he had a map of South Georgia, having been patron of a British joint services expedition, there which had left only two weeks before the Argentine scrap metal merchants arrived to dismantle the whaling station.

He had more than one personal bond with the operation beyond official duty. In 1966 he had been captain of the *Hermes*, and his second-in-command had been a young officer by the name of John Fieldhouse, an easy relationship between the War Cabinet and Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse's task force headquarters at Northwood.

A second bond created Lord Lewin's own low point of the operation - the sinking of HMS *Covenanter*. "My wife and I were named, and I was with her. She had been back on board for a social visit not long before *Covenanter* sailed. It was a moment of great sadness when she went down, and I argued strongly for not announcing her loss until we had a full list of the casualties."

But I was over-ruled by John Nott, and the announcement went out. It was a night of great sadness."

The highlight for him was the landing of 5,000 troops on a single night without casualties. And, of course, the surrender. He recalled: "We were sitting in the War Cabinet Room in the Commons, helping the Prime Minister to draft a statement she intended to make at ten o'clock."

"The news that the surrender had been signed came to us by a rather roundabout route. The SAS in Port Stanley had a di radio link to their headquarters in Hereford, and were providing a running commentary."

"Hereford relayed it on the phone to Northwood, and Northwood relayed it to us clustered round a phone in the Commons."

"The Prime Minister made her statement. I went with John Nott back to the Ministry of Defence to meet the press, and then I just went home to bed. No great celebrations; something of an anti-climax, really. Once we had launched the task force, and once I saw the War Cabinet's determination to back the military, I was never in any doubt that we could win."

Lord Lewin had been planning to spend at least part of his final year as Chief of the Defence Staff accepting an invitation from his opposite number in China to visit the battlefields of the Vietnam border war. But that had to go by the board.

When he left the ministry he took with him no Falklands souvenirs, but a spiral-bound notebook in which he had made daily aides-memoirs.

Two years later, he is matter-of-factly about the Falkland campaign and devoid of any obsessive interest in it. It went as planned, and the losses were about what had been expected. "I try to forget it now," he said. "It was an episode in my life but my life had much more to it."

But the story of the Welsh Guardsman, Simon Veston, told in *The Times*, earlier this week, still moves him to a brief, brooding silence.



Lord Lewin: Regrets that the task force had to go to the South Atlantic at all.

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

There is a new, more aggressive tone to official Argentine rhetoric about the Falkland Islands these days, making it clear that the "Malvinas issue" is far from buried in Argentina.

Two years to the day after their troops were defeated at Port Stanley, Argentines remain as convinced as they were before the conflict that the South Atlantic archipelago belongs under the Argentine flag.

Celebrations of June 10, the "Day of Reaffirmation of Argentine rights" over the islands, ranged from a fiery speech to the Armed Forces by the civilian President, Sr Raúl Alfonsín, to art exhibitions aimed at teaching grade four children about Our Malvinas.

Last night two groups of former conscripts, both of which support their country's effort to recover the Falkland Islands, were scheduled to go ahead with marches to mark the second anniversary of Argentina's defeat.

Only a few months ago a billboard, 50ft by 100ft, was set up in Buenos Aires, carrying a blue-and-white map of the South Atlantic and the legend: "Malvinas are Argentine."

How to explain that, lasting attachment to a goal that seems, at least in the near future, unobtainable?

## Our way is not war... but we will not cease in our claims

Mr James Nelson, an Englishman who emigrated to Argentina and became editor of the English-language *Buenos Aires Herald*, says that "Argentines feel obliged to feel strongly about the Malvinas. They see the islands as their national birthright, something that was stolen from them when their country was very young."

For generations, Argentine children have had the slogan "Las Malvinas son Argentinas" (the Malvinas are Argentine) drilled into them in every Argentine history class they take, and the country's latest civilian government has not changed the curriculum.

Political parties have included the goal of recovering the islands from Britain for as long as anyone can remember and president Alfonsín's middle class Radical Party is no exception.

Sr Alfonsín was one of the few politicians who dared to speak out against the military's

dismal invasion attempt while the war was still in progress, but he has now become the country's chief advocate for getting back the islands.

"Our way is not war", he said last Sunday, "but in the name of our dead we must commit ourselves not to cease a single instant in our claims."

Mr Nelson explained the Government's new tough line in political terms. "The Malvinas is an issue of such blinding simplicity that it is hard to resist. Whenever the country's other problems get too complicated, it is very convenient to turn to an issue where right and wrong are so clearly defined."

Mr Nelson believed that Sr Alfonsín will be appealing more and more to nationalist sentiment as his government wrestles with its huge foreign debt, union troubles and a skittish military.

That reasoning is exactly what led the military into the Falklands morass in the first place, but there is no fear that Sr Alfonsín's administration (or any other) would be foolish enough to try the military tack again.

President Alfonsín seems assured to win support for his "diplomatic offensive" to wrest the islands from Britain's grasp, but only so long as that offensive costs no money or lives.

## Memorials to the dead unveiled at Stanley and Yeovilton

A memorial to the servicemen killed during the Falklands conflict was unveiled at the Fleet Air Arm museum, Yeovilton, Somerset, yesterday.

The bronze plaque, which depicts the Task Force in action, is the duplicate of one dedicated in Port Stanley yesterday.

A small group of relatives attended the unveiling at the museum, which adjoins the Royal Naval Air Station.

The unveiling ceremony was carried out by Captain Michael Clapp who, as Commodore Amphibious Warfare, was responsible for the planning and execution of the island landing.

He praised the relatives for having the courage to attend the ceremony. Each April to mid-June, he said, he remembered with pride the landing and the horror of the fighting in which so many lives were lost. That horror would continue for many years.

The memorial in the Falklands would be seen daily by the people of Port Stanley. "They will remember their friends who died for them and for democracy, and they will remember their friends who got back home."

Mrs Sara Jones, wife of Colonel "H" Jones, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross she said afterwards that there would be a permanent reminder in Britain for relatives to visit.

That view was echoed by Mrs Rosemary Anslow from Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, who attended with her husband, Alfred. Their son Adrian, aged 20, died after the Atlantic Conveyor was struck by an Exocet missile.

The Port Stanley memorial is the islanders' tribute to the 255 British servicemen and three women island civilians who died during the conflict. It stands in front of the secretariat building and faces the sea.

A sculptured figure of Britannia is surrounded by the bronze plaque of the servicemen in action. The names of the dead are on bronze plates on either side.

## Botha tour hailed as putting end to pariah status

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, was welcomed home as a conquering hero from his eight-nation European tour by his jubilant followers yesterday. His Boeing 747 was escorted in a flight of five Mirage jet fighters, and as he touched down at Cape Town's D. F. Malan Airport, a 19-gun salute boomed out while massed choirs sang.

"I did not go to Europe to ask for favours but went to talk openly and frankly on subjects important to South Africa, southern Africa and Europe," Mr Botha declared in a brief speech after the arrival ceremony. He said he had told foreign leaders that South Africa was "on a path of renewal."

He had found a growing awareness abroad that South Africa was a regional power which could not be ignored in

Regionally, relations are improving and South Africa will not be found wanting regarding its responsibility here," the Prime Minister concluded.

Earlier Mr Botha had heard himself praised by Dr Piet Koornhof, the acting Prime Minister during his absence, as a man of vision and leadership who had ended 40 years during which South Africa had been "the punchball and the scapegoat of the world."

Dr Koornhof declared: "For the sake of your country and its people you went out to make a dent, if not a crack, in the wall of misunderstanding, isolation and enmity which had built up around us over the years."

That accurately reflects the judgment of the mass of white opinion here. The tour is seen as having signalled the end of South Africa's unique pariah status among the nations of the world. Minor diplomatic snubs - a photo session curtailed here, a South African flag not flown there - and a few lectures on the evils of apartheid were a small price to pay in return.

Anti-apartheid protesters in London and elsewhere were dismissed in television coverage here as "rent-a-mob" riff-raff, and their impact off-set by shots of President Reagan being heckled during his visit to Ireland.

Mr Botha and his Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, were also able to use the public platform which the tour gave them to score a number of propaganda debating points. These included the bizarre offer to hand back Namibia to the West, and preferably to the West Germans as heirs of the old colonial power there, if they would take over the cost of running it.

For most politically-aware blacks the tour has been an unmitigated disaster, conferring on Mr Botha an international respectability which in their eyes he has done nothing to deserve. They see no likelihood, nor indeed does Mr Botha himself encourage the expectation, that the pace of reform will be any quicker as a result of the tour.

## Walesa hint at halting union role

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

In a surprising and rather enigmatic statement, Mr Lech Walesa the leader of the banned Solidarity union, said yesterday that he was considering suspending his Solidarity activities after national local council elections due to be held on Sunday.

He also stated clearly that he was not trying to influence Polish voters for or against the elections, which the Government has billed as a major test of strength against the Solidarity underground.

Mr Walesa has already said that he and 40 other members of the Solidarity leadership will not take part in the elections, but he has always stopped short of calling for a boycott.

His statement, delivered unexplained to reporters over the telephone, seems to suggest that if the elections produce a convincing result for the Government he will no longer try to challenge the authorities on behalf of Solidarity.

In connection with a growing number of questions on the subject of the elections, I state that I do not want to influence voters' attitudes as I want to know the true situation," he said.

"It is possible that after June 17 I will suspend my activities. I pledge to serve the people and not lead them by the hand."

Speculation centered on the possibility that Mr Walesa had been told of a move to release some or all of 600 political prisoners if the Government managed to secure a large turnout.

Reaching itself for a turnout rather less than the Communist norm of 99.9 per cent, the Polish Government has announced that as many as a million Poles will probably not have the chance to cast their vote in the elections.

Solidarity underground leaders have called for an all-out boycott of the elections to embarrass the Jaruzelski Government.

The Government for its part has plastered the country with posters urging the maximum turnout, and published a stream of articles denouncing the boycott call.



Comrades converse: President Chernenko of the Soviet Union (left) and President Husak of Czechoslovakia during a meeting in the Kremlin.

## Chernenko rejects appeal for dialogue from West

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Chernenko yesterday offered the West "honest dialogue" in a closing speech to the three-day Comecon summit in Moscow. But in an interview with *Pravda* the Soviet leader emphasized the Kremlin's current hard line, rejecting a call for long-term dialogue from last week's Western summit in London.

Mr Chernenko told the Comecon leaders yesterday that a "dangerous test of strength" with the United States was "not our choice, not our policy. We will be able to stand up for ourselves, let no one have any doubt about that," Mr Chernenko said. But he summed up the talks by saying Russia and its allies offered "an alternative to the growing military threat."

"We urge all states, all who stand for détente, all who are against nuclear madness, to make joint efforts in this direction."

The summit, the first for 15 years, adopted a political declaration entitled: "The maintenance of peace and international economic cooperation," and a statement of

"Basic guidelines" for future economic cooperation within Comecon. The statements will not be published until tomorrow.

Mr Leonid Zamyatin, chief Kremlin spokesman, told a press conference that the political declaration "accused Washington of causing world instability and creating the threat of war."

In his interview on the front page of *Pravda* Mr Chernenko accused Western leaders at the London summit of "political duplicity" for urging Russia to resume talks while continuing to deploy American missiles in Europe. He said it was high time America and its allies confirmed their responsibility for peace by "concrete deeds."

The Soviet leader did not elaborate, leading some diplomats to speculate that he had deliberately avoided reiterating Moscow's demand for the total withdrawal of cruise and Pershing, although the phrase "concrete deeds" usually refers to this demand.

In his closing summit speech Mr Chernenko said his call for "joint action" was addressed to "socialist countries not represented at this meeting" (an apparent reference to China) and to developing countries. But it was also aimed at the Western powers. "We offer honest terms for peaceful coexistence," he said. "Socialism does not need war. It will prove its advantages through peaceful competition."

The Comecon summit, convened after years of delay and conflict, took place in strict secrecy, with no details released until yesterday.

## Differences on economic policy still unresolved

East European sources said yesterday that the three-day Comecon summit had not resolved points of difference between themselves, and "active and purposeful" implementation was needed.

Mr Chernenko said there had been a "frank, detailed and fruitful exchange of views" on Soviet bloc cohesion and unity. Observers said this pointed to resistance to Moscow's integration policies by East European leaders such as Janos Kadar of Hungary and Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania.

The summit agreed on coordination of member countries' five-year plans up to 1990, and a long-term integration plan for the decade after that.

Officials said yesterday at a press conference that Comecon members such as Hungary had the "sovereign right" to join Western bodies like the International Monetary Fund. But sources said Hungary's IMF membership and close Western links had irked the Kremlin.

Officials claim that national income in Comecon countries increased by nearly 70 per cent between 1970 and 1980.

## Muldoon calls snap general election

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

New Zealand will go to the polls in an early general election on July 14, Sir Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, announced last night. Parliament, which has sat for only two weeks this year, is to be prorogued immediately. The normal three-yearly election has been scheduled for later this year, probably in November.

The prime minister said the decision had been precipitated by the action of Miss Marilyn Waring, a Government backbencher, who yesterday informed the Government whip that she would no longer attend the caucus. While she would support the Government on procedural motions and all matters of substance, she would reserve her position on disarmament matters and rape legislation.

Her defection is critical to the Government, which has been ruling with an effective majority of one after appointing the Speaker from its ranks. The state of the parties in the single chamber Parliament is National Party 47, Labour 41, Social Credit two, Independent two.

Ms Waring, aged 31, who has been in Parliament since 1975 and is a champion of disarmament and women's

causes, was one of two Government members who voted with Labour earlier this week on a Private Member's Bill seeking to ban visits by nuclear warships. The Government was able to defeat the measure by mobilizing the support of the two Independents.

Mr David Lange, the Labour leader, welcomed the prospect of an early poll saying he was overjoyed. The Government's move was to be seen as a deepening economic crisis and its inability to cope with it, he said.

Some MPs were stunned by the decision. The National Party is believed to be not as well prepared for battle as Labour, which has chosen all its candidates and has its economic policy in place.

An opinion poll published this week put the two principal parties neck and neck in the popular ratings, though with Sir Robert well ahead of Mr Lange in the leadership stakes.

The timing has some advantages for the National Party, inflation, which the Government reduced to 3.5 per cent this year from a high of 18 per cent two years ago, is beginning to rise again.

## Communist gains shown by Berlinguer funeral

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Italian Communist Party's national executive is expected to meet on Monday, in the wake of the results of the European elections, to seek a decision on a new leader to succeed Enrico Berlinguer.

The huge following at Signor Berlinguer's funeral on Wednesday has once again raised the possibility that the Communists could emerge from the elections as Italy's biggest party. It is understood that President Persiani himself has impressed on political leaders that, if the Communists moved ahead of the Christian Democrats, the sensible course would be to avoid overdramatizing the event.

The President is a Socialist, but he never concealed his high regard for Signor Berlinguer, and at the funeral was photographed bowing to kiss the coffin.

What is quite clear is that the death of Signor Berlinguer has imposed a greater sense of responsibility.

It is no longer taken for granted that the coalition will have to fall whatever the results of the European elections. A week ago political commentators were convinced that relations between the five parties comprising the Government had become so bad that a collapse was inevitable.

Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, is now talking as if he were more confident. He accepts that there are still difficulties and that the results this weekend could make the life of his Government still more difficult. But, in the appeals he is preparing to deliver just before the voting booths are opened, he speaks as if he genuinely believes that he will be able to carry on.

## Kohl confirms refugees in Berlin mission

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Chancellor Kohl yesterday officially confirmed press reports that up to 19 East Germans have sought refuge in West Germany's mission in East Berlin and are trying to emigrate to the West.

He told a new conference that his office was in constant touch with the East Berlin authorities about the refugees, said to have been in the mission for several weeks.

So far this year some 70 East Germans have been allowed to emigrate after fleeing into Bonn's diplomatic missions in East Berlin and Prague.

## Madrid meeting on ETA raids across border

From Harry DeBilis, Madrid

The French Interior Minister, M. Gaston Defferre, conferred here yesterday with his Spanish counterpart, Señor José Barrio-nuevo, about measures which the Spaniards hope will end the violent activities of Basque terrorists crossing the border.

A draft document under consideration by both governments would reportedly permit French authorities to revoke the political refugee status under which members of the Basque separatist group, ETA, reside in France, and to expel or deport many of them. Spain would be committed to accepting ETA members who chose repatriation and who are not wanted

## Pastora ready to fight on without US backing

From Alan Riding, Caracas (NYT)

Senor Edén Pastora Gómez, the Nicaraguan rebel leader who was wounded in an assassination attempt two weeks ago, says he will continue his fight against the Sandinista Government even if the United States withholds support for his efforts.

In an interview in a private clinic here, Señor Pastora said his forces had received no help from the United States for the past 10 weeks, in what he viewed as pressure to force him into an alliance with Honduran-based rebel groups backed by the CIA.

But he reiterated his refusal to deal with the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FON) until it is "purged" of all figures linked to the ousted Somoza dictatorship. Instead, Señor Pastora said he planned to seek support in Latin America.

"Our achievement is to have

gone as far as we have without losing our independence," he said. "For many, to be independent is worse than to be a communist. When the word was put out that I was the only obstacle to unity of the Nicaraguan opposition, I realized I was condemned."

But Señor Pastora said he had still not decided who was responsible for the bomb that exploded at a news conference just inside Nicaragua on May 30, killing 10 people, including two journalists. "I can think of sound reasons why both the left and the right might have done it."

After the bombing, Señor Pastora was first treated in San José, Costa Rica, and soon afterwards was flown here through the personal intervention of a former President of Venezuela, Señor Carlos Andrés Pérez. Señor Pastora is now convalescing from burns on 40

per cent of his body and severe shrapnel wounds in his left leg.

Lying in a tiny room in the Policlínica Metropolitana, protected by two Venezuelan soldiers and accompanied by close aides, Señor Pastora, who was known as "Commander Zero" during the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution, spoke of his options.

"The first thing I have to do is to return to the mountains," he said. Even if the following day I must leave to seek aid, I have to return for political reasons." He added that supply lines for his forces in southern Nicaragua must be reopened urgently, because economically we're in a terrible situation. I have no allies in Washington."

He said that neither the United States nor the Nicaraguan Democratic Front had responded so far to any of his demands.



Señor Pastora: Speaking from his hospital bed.







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# Nine men who tried to kill the Pope

As speculation grows about the death of his predecessor, new evidence appears on the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II. Claire Sterling reveals the results of the official Italian investigation

Three years almost to the day since Pope John Paul II was shot and nearly killed in St Peter's Square, Italy's judicial investigation has come to a close. After reviewing some 25,000 pages of documentation gathered by Judge Iorio Martelli, the State Prosecutor has made his decision. He has asked for the indictment and trial of nine foreign nationals — three Bulgarians and six Turks — for conspiring to assassinate the Pope.

His 78-page report points to an elaborate conspiracy involving Turkey's neo-Nazi Grey Wolves, the Sofia-based Turkish Mafia and, in the prosecutor's words, "organisms and individuals of the Bulgarian secret service".

The three Bulgarians facing indictment, all operating in Rome when the Pope was shot, are described as "agents of the Bulgarian secret service".

Tramatic evidence also indicates active involvement by the Bulgarian Embassy itself. The Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca, whose confession implicated the others, is described as "a despicable mercenary" and no mean liar in his own right. Nevertheless, the role of his confession seems to have stood up under severe scrutiny.

Every declaration of Agca's, every circumstance and detail, was checked and investigated," says the report. In the end, Agca is convincing in his reconstruction of the crime.

Since Agca started to confess in May 1982, Bulgaria in particular has branded him as a villain in an imperialist plot against the communist East, reached in prison by the Italian security services and/or CIA. Prosecutor Antonio Albano dismisses this as "archaic cold-war propaganda".

What follows is the State Prosecutor's description of the evidence found as the case's investigation proceeded. The narrative comes, directly from his text: my own remarks are in brackets.

Agca's behaviour had baffled Italian interrogators from the start. He began to talk, exactly a year after his arrest. For all his erratic assertions and retractions, Agca's confession "was coherent and firm in the substance of the charges he made" regarding his main accomplices: the Turkish Grey Wolves leader Oral Celik and Musa Sarder Celibi; the Turkish Mafia boss Bekir Celik; and the Bulgarian nationals Sergei Antonov, Todor Aivazov and Vassilev.

In the first days of July 1980, with a false Indian passport in the name of Yaginder Singh — the fugitive Agca went to Sofia. At once upon his arrival Agca looked up a fellow-Turk named Omer Mersan, in Room 911 of the Hotel Vitosha.

During his stay in Bulgaria, Agca was helped in several ways by Mersan. "A wheeler-dealer

agent extremely well-connected with Bulgarian authorities, dedicated to a traffic of arms, drugs, and contraband, of all kinds."

It was Mersan who "reserved Agca's room" at the Vitosha, gave him money on the orders of Abuzer Ugurlu (the godfather of the Turkish Mafia) and furnished documents permitting his sojourn in Sofia. Mersan also put him in contact with Bekir Celik, a potent Turkish Mafia boss.

Bekir Celik in turn arranged a meeting towards the end of July 1980, between Agca and a "Sofia Kolev", agent of the Bulgarian secret services and "a functionary of the Bulgarian Embassy in Rome." This turned out to be Todor Aivazov, the Embassy's treasurer.

Agca's close friend Oral Celik also in Sofia by then, took part in that and three or four other such meetings in the Bulgarian capital.

During these meetings with "Kolev" that summer, agreement was reached on the "conceptual, organizational and contractual bases for the assassination of Pope Wojtyla, to be carried out in spring 1981."

The motive, centred on Poland. "The Bulgarian secret services had a specific political interest in killing Pope John Paul II. . . . The (imposing rise) of Solidarity in Poland that summer, and consequent social convulsions, constituted a most acute crisis for the socialist states of Eastern Europe. This was perceived as a mortal danger to their political cohesion and military strategy."

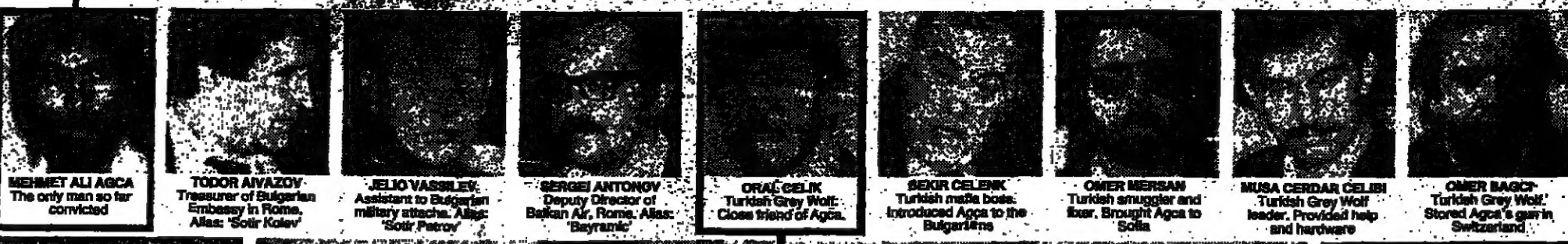
Since Poland's ideological collapse was mostly due to the rebellion might be greatly weakened and fragmented" by this Pope's "physical elimination."

The machinery of the plot would be set up like this: "1) Through Bekir Celik . . . the Bulgarian services contracted with the Turkish terrorists Agca and Oral Celik for the organization and execution of the plan."

"2) The Bulgarian secret service was committed to: a) Payment, through Bekir Celik, of Deutschmarks (roughly \$550,000) to be evenly divided between Agca, Celik, and the leader of the Turkish Grey Wolves' Federation in West Germany, Musa Sarder Celibi. Closely tied to Oral Celik as a fellow-Grey Wolf, Celibi was also associated intimately with the Mafia boss Bekir Celik."

"b) Safe and undisturbed refuge in the Bulgarian port of Varna, on the Black Sea."

"c) Arrangements and facilities for flight, for Agca and Celik, through immediate departure from Italy by TIR (Transport International Routinier) truck or diplomatic vehicle."



MEHMET ALI AGCA: The only man so far convicted. TODOR AIVAZOV: Treasurer of Bulgarian Embassy in Rome. ALIAS: 'Sofia Kolev'. BEKIR CELEK: Assistant to Bulgarian military attaché, Agca's 'Sofia Kolev'. SERGI ANTONOV: Deputy Director of Balkan Air, Rome, alias: 'Bayramic'. ORAL CELEK: Turkish Mafia boss. Close friend of Agca. AGCA CELEK: Turkish Mafia boss. Introduced Agca to the Bulgarians. OMER MERSAN: Turkish smuggler and financier. Brought Agca to Sofia. MUSA SARDAR CELEBI: Turkish Grey Wolf leader. Provided help and hardware. OMER BAGCI: Turkish Grey Wolf. Stored Agca's gun in Switzerland.

Over the next nine months, Agca wandered back and forth across Europe, seemingly without purpose. Reportedly, he was covering his tracks. Almost everything up to the moment of the shooting would be virtually untraceable later: phone calls, verbal agreements, meetings on the street, in bars, homes, restaurants and railroad stations.

Upon reaching Rome in November 1980, Agca's first step was to call the Bulgarian Embassy as arranged, and meet "Sofia Petrov." This was Jello Vassilev, secretary to the Military Attaché.

Vassilev, already informed of the plans made in Sofia, was the man running the show in Rome. Among other things he would take care of Agca's financial needs until the day of the hit, five months afterwards.

During the months of November, December, January, April and May, Agca met frequently with Vassilev, at Rome's Hotel Archimede, Doney's in Via Veneto, the Piccadilly Bar in Piazza Barberini, and an apartment in 36 Via Galvani belonging to Todor Aivazov, the "Kolev" presented to Agca in Sofia.

There, along with Aivazov and Vassilev, Agca met "Bayramic" Sergei Antonov, Deputy Director of Balkan Air in Rome. All three were secret agents.

That December, Agca had a first meeting with the Grey Wolves' leader, Musa Sarder Celibi, in a Milan hotel room. On the following March 31, at the Sheraton Hotel in Zurich, a final meeting was held to "work out definitive terms, settle money questions, and assign tasks."

Among those present were Agca, Oral Celik, Musa Sarder Celibi and the Turkish Mafia boss Bekir Celik. The money would be split three ways: a third each for Musa Sarder Celik, Oral Celik and Agca himself.

In April 1981, Agca returned to Rome, checked in at the

Hotel Torino, and got back in touch with the three Bulgarians. "On Vassilev's advice, Agca then went to Perugia, where he registered 'at' the foreign language school to acquire student's credentials."

Agca returned to Rome, scheduled meeting in Piazza Indipendenza with Vassilev and Oral Celik, who was in the city already. In a room at the YMCA, Vassilev showed Agca and Celik folders on the Vatican and photographs of the Pope.

"Between the afternoons of May 10 and May 13, Agca and Celik met Aivazov, Vassilev and Antonov, with whom they

inspected St Peter's Square several times. Together, they went over the timing and placement, and settled last-minute details on the particulars of escape and flight."

"At 1 pm on May 13, Agca, Celik, Aivazov and Vassilev went to the usual bar near Piazza Repubblica. Antonov was driving a blue car — perhaps an Alfa Romeo — driven by Vassilev the previous day. After lunch near Piazza Barberini, the three went off in the same car to an address near Via Nomentana (where Antonov lived). Antonov left them and returned with a small valise containing two

guns and two panic bombs, for Oral Celik."

"Around 3pm, they drove on to the Vatican, parking in front of the Canadian Embassy in Via della Conciliazione. Together they made a final inspection of the square. Aivazov left. The other three had coffee in a nearby bar."

"About 4pm, Antonov left also. Agca and Celik returned to St Peter's Square, where Agca fired on the Pope shortly after 5pm."

That was when Oral Celik was supposed to set off the panic-bombs, creating confusion to cover Agca's escape.

Instead, Celik himself fled the square. He was photographed on the run by American TV newsman Lowell Newton, who saw a gun in his hand."

Celik's failure to use the panic-bombs is not explained in the Prosecutor's report. He does note, however, that Celik was Agca's best friend, "dearer to him than a brother." And Celik had been sent to the scene with a gun. Did he have orders to shoot Agca after the Pope was shot? Were the panic-bombs meant to cover Agca's own murder rather than their joint escape?

Just over an hour after the

Pope was shot, a "Bulgarian TIR Magirus, license number CK 3572 and trailer number CE 6176" left the Bulgarian Embassy in Rome for the Yugoslav frontier.

Despite the trivial nature of its "cargo," the Bulgarian Embassy had urgently requested the TIR's free passage across Italian borders both coming and going, with customs clearance on the embassy grounds. It was the first and last time that the Bulgarian Embassy resorted to such an urgent, and extravagant, customs procedure.

"The exceptional nature of this operation raises grave suspicions," writes the State Prosecutor. "Our financial police know all too well what can happen after a TIR truck is sealed."

What was so immensely important and useful in the TIR's cargo that the Bulgarian Embassy should make such unique demands for urgency? We must conclude that on board that TIR truck . . . hidden among those personal effects, was Oral Celik."

State Prosecutor Albano has now requested the formal indictment and trial of all these people: the Bulgarians Sergei Antonov, Todor Aivazov and Jello Vassilev; the Turkish Mafia boss Bekir Celik; his longtime business acquaintance Omer Mersan; the Grey Wolf leaders Musa Sarder Celibi, Omer Bagci, and Oral Celik; and Mehmet Ali Agca himself.

Four would probably have to be tried in absentia. Aivazov and Vassilev, who had diplomatic immunity in Rome, cannot be extradited from Bulgaria. The extradition of Bekir Celik from Bulgaria, where he has been sheltering since October 1982, seems unlikely, though the Prosecutor has asked for it. Oral Celik has vanished.

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inspected St Peter's Square several times. Together, they went over the timing and placement, and settled last-minute details on the particulars of escape and flight."

"At 1 pm on May 13, Agca, Celik, Aivazov and Vassilev went to the usual bar near Piazza Repubblica. Antonov was driving a blue car — perhaps an Alfa Romeo — driven by Vassilev the previous day. After lunch near Piazza Barberini, the three went off in the same car to an address near Via Nomentana (where Antonov lived). Antonov left them and returned with a small valise containing two

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Celik's failure to use the panic-bombs is not explained in the Prosecutor's report. He does note, however, that Celik was Agca's best friend, "dearer to him than a brother." And Celik had been sent to the scene with a gun. Did he have orders to shoot Agca after the Pope was shot? Were the panic-bombs meant to cover Agca's own murder rather than their joint escape?

Just over an hour after the

Pope was shot, a "Bulgarian TIR Magirus, license number CK 3572 and trailer number CE 6176" left the Bulgarian Embassy in Rome for the Yugoslav frontier.

Despite the trivial nature of its "cargo," the Bulgarian Embassy had urgently requested the TIR's free passage across Italian borders both coming and going, with customs clearance on the embassy grounds. It was the first and last time that the Bulgarian Embassy resorted to such an urgent, and extravagant, customs procedure.

"The exceptional nature of this operation raises grave suspicions," writes the State Prosecutor. "Our financial police know all too well what can happen after a TIR truck is sealed."

What was so immensely important and useful in the TIR's cargo that the Bulgarian Embassy should make such unique demands for urgency? We must conclude that on board that TIR truck . . . hidden among those personal effects, was Oral Celik."

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Just over an hour after the

David Hewson recalls Walsall's most famous absent son

## One man in an unsinkable boat

anniversary of his birth in 1959, the town's amateur dramatic groups gathered to stage a production of his only real dramatic success.

The scale of dedication for this feat may be judged by the words of Max Beerholm, who reviewed the work on its first appearance: "This tenth-rate writer has been, for many years, prolific of his tenth-rate stuff. But I do not recall anything quite so vilely stupid as *The Passing of the Third Subud*."

Walsall does not agree with Beerholm, and has taken Jerome to his heart, which may, at first glance, seem little strange. Jerome Klappa Jerome was born in the property in Bradford Street which has now been renamed Belsize House after the author's home in London's Belsize Park, on May 2, 1859. Two years later, after the collapse of his father's coal mining business, the family moved to live in penury in Poplar in

London's East End, saddling Jerome with a squalid youth which marked him for years.

From that day on, he returned to Walsall twice, briefly in 1921 and, on a final occasion, in 1927, a few months before his death, when he was feted at a dinner with the local aldermen and awarded the freedom of the borough. On the scale of literary association, then, Walsall's right to claim Jerome as his most famous son is about on a par with that of every pub in South Wales to clasp the memory of Dylan Thomas to its breast and call itself the fount of the poet's inspiration.

Mrs Sarah Elsom, Walsall's Keeper of Local History, is admirably blunt about why the town has selected Jerome. "Frankly, we haven't got anyone else — Walsall isn't really known for producing great literary figures."

The museum service is, equally honest about the reconstructed 1850s parlour that forms half of the museum, the rest being an exhibition of Jerome artefacts. The house, a Grade II listed building which was nearly demolished a few years ago as part of a redevelopment scheme, has been shared since the last century and the museum "sees its function as being primarily educational". In other words, it is a racing certainty that Jerome's shade, recalled to the parlour from his skiff on the Thames of Paradise with a perfect memory back to its infancy, would still be wondering who slipped it a Mickey Finn and dumped it in a strange room.

Yet from these tenuous connections has grown a collection of material about Jerome and his work which would otherwise have been lost to the world. Walsall's interest in him in the later part of his life, when he was having little literary success and even

less critical acclaim, touched both him and his family, and it was to the town that he lastly knew that his daughter left the last of his books and letters. A large number of family photographs will also be on display.

So next month's opening will reveal the desk at which he wrote most of his books, his Red Cross uniform from the First World War, in which he served as an ambulance driver, his favourite cigarette box, several first editions, and some copies inscribed affectionately to his wife. Without the devotion of the good burgesses of Walsall, the lot would probably have made that slow but inexorable progress from memorabilia to abandoned junk.

The man himself was touched, and, perhaps, a little surprised by Walsall's interest. After being given the freedom of the borough, he wrote to the town: "There was more than welcome in your eyes. You gave me the feeling that, behind your formal greetings, there was genuine affection for me — that all these years you had remembered me and had been looking forward to my coming back."

moreover . . . Miles Kington

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Test (10). The number of articles every year in *The Times* discussing how many noughts there are in a billion.

Two hundred thousand (200,000). The number of pounds sterling given to a departing executive as a reward for being no longer competent to run a company.

Two and a half thousand (2,500). The difference in pounds sterling between what you sell your house for and the money you have left afterwards.

Ten (10). The miles per hour by which average traffic flow exceeds any speed limit.

Seven hundred thousand (700,000). The sum which has to be raised in the next fortnight to prevent the export from Britain of a painting said to be part of the national heritage. (A painting is said to be part of the national heritage if it is previously unknown, has been hidden in a private house for 200 years, and was painted by an Italian.)

One hundred (100). West Indian fast bowlers are always said to bowl at 100 mph. Modern statisticians now suspect that they also take 100 paces in order to do so.

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FRIDAY PAGE

Now a middle aged enfant terrible, film director Roger Vadim has written his first novel. As Bel Mooney discovers, he has to live down his reputation for liaisons with beautiful women before he is taken seriously

# Legends of a man and his women

"Let me tell you, I have a fantasy," said Roger Vadim, "that when I die I will arrive at the gates of heaven, and St. Peter will be there. He will say, 'We are pleased to see you, you have been a good man, and in a moment I will show you to your place. But first, tell me this...' (Vadim leans forward in his chair, acting the inquisitive angel) ... how were Brigitte, Catherine and Jane? When they were young? What were they like? When they come up here they will be old ladies and we will never know, so tell me, just what were they like?"

Vadim's interestingly battered face (a blend of Bogart and Aznavour) is showing the 56 years now, as well it might, since the man carries much weighty myth about with him, so heavy that it times the galle ship seems transformed into a stoop. One myth is, of course, his own: the enfant terrible of the late 1950s *nouvelle vague*, and starmaker extraordinaire. But the other three legends are more potent, one of them ranking with Murno - who at least did not survive to have tabloid telephoto lenses focused on her middle aged privacy.

So what has Roger Vadim done? He married Brigitte Bardot, and lived with the imperious, independent Catherine Deneuve, and created Barbarella, Fonda, before she turned to politics, feminism, and making much money out of the body-beautiful. There was also the marriage to Bardot-clone Annette Stroyberg, and a later legal union to an heiress called Catherine Schneider, as well as publicized, passing liaisons with pretty girls. And now M Vadim is a novelist, and wants to be his own man. But he knows quite well that few people would show interest in his first novel, were it not for the women he carries about his neck like so many large, feathery albatrosses.

When this subject arises (as it must) Vadim says emphatically that

he does not care, yet tosses the cigarette packet from hand to hand in agitation, rises, sits down again, shrugs, smiles: "It is... how do you say?... the other side of the medal. It is inevitable that someone who has married the most famous and beautiful women in the world will have to pay for it. It is more interesting to journalists than the fact that I am a serious director. I know this. I was a journalist once, on *Paris-Match*. No, I am not bitter, but sometimes I regret that people don't talk more about the movies. Three of them - *And God Created Woman*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, and *Barbarella* - are part of the course at UCLA. But 99 per cent of the time people ask me about the ex-wives. Now, even writing is not enough... (he grins) ... Listen, I will write a novel about three men alone at the North Pole, and I will still get asked about my marriages, and it will be suggested that I write about three men alone because I had three wives, and I have had enough of women!" He jokes, but he is not really amused.

So to change the subject. Vadim's autobiography (published in 1976) was called *Memoirs of the Devil*. His first novel, published in France, America, and now here, is called *The Hungry Angel*. The titles betray, not so much an interest in Judgment Day, as an instinct for self-dramatization and a snappy headline. Both books are partly true, and partially about himself. He wishes now he had been more honest in that bland autobiography, but was unwilling to tell all about shh-you-know-who - even though pictures of them all appeared on the book-jacket. When it came out he said, "I want a new label as a writer", and a publisher offered him a contract for a novel. He says he rewrote the first chapter of *The Hungry Angel* five times because he had no confidence, and delivered four years later. He explains the title: "It is about a boy



"I write about three men all alone at the North Pole and still get asked about my marriages says Roger Vadim, above, whose wives and lovers have included Brigitte Bardot, top, Catherine Deneuve, Jane Fonda and (below) Annette Stroyberg

of 16 (as Vadim was) who, after four years of German occupation, is hungry for emotion, for freedom, for action, for love..." Suddenly he sounds very, very Vadim, with that peculiarly French way of speaking of passion as the English talk about the weather: as something uniquely their own.

Unprepossessing in brown cord, and beige tweed jacket, Vadim is hesitant in conversation, because, he says, he is shy. But he loosens slightly when we get on to his latest film - not the one starring Christian, his son by Deneuve, but the one he is currently planning. "It's a story about a very special young woman. She is a walking paradox, being a very cerebral, creative person, but also an anarchist: very free about her body, about sex. I thought the studio might be excited if I told them this would be a version of *And God Created Woman* - 1983. I thought they would think that very commercial."

Alas, we are drawn back into the past, to 1956, when *Et Dieu Créa la Femme* made the young Brigitte a

star. Vadim had made 22 films, and appears to see no irony that he himself is ready to invoke his first to seal his latest. Then, unasked, he talks about his relationship with Ann Biderman, an American screen writer, saying that he is not jealous if a woman is successful in the same field, and that people were wrong to imply that he moulded his women: "To help people is not to control them. I like to give them faith in themselves, to help them gain confidence. As far as Brigitte Bardot was concerned, she was very young, 15 years old, when I met her, but I never said, 'do this, do that'. It is the same with children. You have to give them their own identity."

I start to ask a question, change the subject, but he continues. "For example, when Brigitte was a brunette she decided to change the colour of her hair. I was a little sad, because I like brunettes. But movies were beginning to be made in colour, and directors liked blonde hair. She said to me, 'If I was a star, if I was Ava Gardner, they would accept me as I am.'"

"So she changed, and I said nothing. I have to admit that though she was very charming as a brunette, the blonde hair gave something more to her personality."

He does not see so much of Bardot now, because he lives in California within walking distance of Jane Fonda, with whom he is great friends. But if he is in St Tropez he calls. I point out that though he has four children (daughters by Stroyberg and Fonda, sons by Deneuve and Schneider) he and Bardot had no child, so nothing to keep them bound. Immediately he seems defensive, even sadly so: "We didn't have a child, but then for at least 15 years after the divorce we had the movies we did together. And by that time a child would have been grown up nearby..." It is as if some private regret had been disturbed.

Vadim is a man, whose first concern on entering his suite at the Waldorf Hotel, is to make a long phone call to his ten-year-old son, Vania. It is hard not to recall that all the famous women walked out on him: Bardot, Stroyberg and Deneuve

for other men. Fonda for politics and freedom. He once said, "They all changed as they became famous". Hearing him hope, with some anxiety that his first novel gets "good critics" (and they might say that it is erotic and engaging, while bad ones would say it is formless, and badly written) it is easy to forget the diabolical Vadim myth altogether, and see him as a rather lonely and rootless man who wants to be seen to do well. He rolls a dry cigarette around his lips, and becomes a character, not in a Vadim film, but perhaps a Bergman, speaking lines that ring true: "We have an expression which says I have been very comfortable in my skin. But I do have moments of depression. They come on me suddenly, and everything is grey, or dark blue. I have no feeling for life at such times. I am like a Russian character in a novel by Dostoevsky". *Mon Dieu!* there was a novelist who knew about angels and devils. The *Hungry Angel* by Roger Vadim, is published by Sidgwick & Jackson (price £8.95).



## Holiday risks

Last year, UK residents made more than 17 million trips abroad. Nearly one and a half million went to Spain from Gatwick alone.

But a holiday abroad is not without risk. Anyone who goes to a Third World country without first going through a battery of vaccinations is open to cholera, polio, typhoid - even rabies and plague in some parts of Africa, Asia and the Americas.

But even those who manage to avoid the more serious illnesses are highly likely to suffer some milder troubles on holiday.

### Help at hand

If you are suddenly ill abroad the last thing you will want to worry about is the quality of care you might receive. But a horrifying report in *Holiday Which?* (May, 1983) published by the Consumers' Association revealed low standard of care in hospitals abroad.

One solution is to make sure your travel insurance includes a repatriation clause - if it does not, and you need to travel home, you may be saddled with a bill of at least £5,000. Many package tour operators provide repatriation facilities with their travel insurance.

### Shot in the arm

For the best protection you should have your first vaccinations six to eight weeks before your holiday but it is never too late for part of the course - even three or four days before you go.

The table shows which jabs are recommended in different countries; some recommendations embrace vaccination requirements.

● Polio: Generally advisable unless trip confined to Europe, N America, Australia and New Zealand. Two doses six to eight weeks apart; third dose four to six months later gives immunity for at least five years. Course can be accelerated to three doses, six weeks apart if time is limited.

● Tetanus: Everyone should be protected - even UK residents. Two doses six to 12 weeks apart; third dose six to 12

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

### SPECIAL

months later gives immunity for at least five years.

● Typhoid: Advisable unless trip confined to N Europe, N America, Australia and New Zealand. Two doses four to eight weeks apart gives protection for three years. If time is short the interval between the doses may be reduced to 10 days plus a booster one year later for the three-year protection. If you are going away for a fortnight you can have the first dose just before you leave and finish the course when you return; some protection is better than none.

● Yellow fever: Essential for travel in parts of Africa and S America. One dose, valid 10 days after jab, gives a valid certificate for 10 years. Remember if you visit a country where yellow fever is endemic but vaccination is not mandatory you may run into problems trying to enter a non-yellow fever area if you are not vaccinated.

● Cholera: Essential or advisable for Africa, India, Asia and Middle East. One dose only needed for the certificate. Second dose gives little additional protection but should be given one to four weeks after the first.

● Infectious hepatitis: Recommended where hygiene standards are suspect. People over 40 are advised to have a hepatitis A antibody test. It is more expensive than the vaccination but if it is positive you will never need another vaccination. If you are at risk you should be protected. A single dose, depending on its size, lasts three or six months.

● Rabies: Recommended for Africa, India, Asia, Middle East, South America. Two doses, four weeks apart; third dose six to 12 months later. When you travel again only a single booster will be needed. A blood test three weeks after second dose confirms adequate protection. Children are particularly vulnerable: they are liable to be bitten in the face which means a shorter distance for the rabies virus to reach the brain.

● Malaria: Central and South America, Africa, Middle East and Asia. Preventing malaria is very complicated and depends on the country and length of stay. If you are short of time buy Paludrine at a chemist but

it is advisable to check with a vaccination or tropical disease centre.

● Smallpox: This disease officially no longer exists and vaccination is not required.

### Tummy trouble

Everyone has the bacteria *Escherichia coli* or *E. coli* in the gut but most people adapt to the toxins of British varieties. Travelers' diarrhoea strikes when we encounter the new strains in other parts of the world against which we have no protection.

This form of travellers' diarrhoea generally attacks suddenly and within a few days of arrival. Usually the diarrhoea lasts no more than two or three days.

*E. coli* is water borne so it is difficult to avoid. A few simple precautions will prevent more serious infections such as viral hepatitis, dysentery and typhoid.

If you have any doubts about the local sanitation and water supply:

1. Only drink boiled water. Watch out for ice-cubes, they, too, can be contaminated.
2. Alcohol does not make a drink safe but bottled drinks are usually safe.
3. Only eat thoroughly cooked meat and fish.
4. Eat only cooked vegetables. Salads are best avoided.
5. Only by ice cream from large firms.
6. Never buy food from street traders.
7. Avoid bathing in potentially contaminated water, including some parts of the Mediterranean.

If you do become ill it is best to starve yourself for 24 hours. Avoid all solids, milk and alcohol, and drink plenty of purified water. Introduce fruit juices and weak soups on day two. Otherwise healthy adults can take antidiarrhoeal drugs but they are not recommended for anyone with an underlying bowel problem.

Diarrhoea in small children and babies can be dangerous. Breast feeding is the best prevention, but otherwise take special care in sterilizing feeding equipment. If a child gets diarrhoea stop solids and milk.

It is vital to ensure that infants do not become dehydrated, and consult a doctor. Children should not be given antidiarrhoeal drugs.

Most doctors are reluctant to prescribe prophylactic antibiotics, because indiscriminate use could promote drug resistance in the bugs which cause travellers' diarrhoea.

Seek medical help if a bout of diarrhoea does not clear up quickly or if you or anyone with you suffers from any of the following: persistent vomiting, blood or mucus in faeces, extreme exhaustion or frequent watery stools in a young child.

### Counting the cost

The confusion over charges for travel vaccinations is compounded by the NHS system for paying GPs to give them.

Some are covered by "public policy"; and patients who need these vaccinations will not have to pay.

Public policy does not, however, cover all recommended vaccinations. If you request an unlisted vaccine your GP is entitled to charge you. The British Medical Association recommends £7.

Your GP will be able to supply most vaccines. Yellow fever is only obtainable from special centres. A complete list appears on DHSS leaflet SA35 *Protect your health abroad* available from travel agents and local DHSS offices. Charges range from £2 to £6 or more.

Your GP can administer the less common vaccinations - like those for rabies and hepatitis - but may have to order supplies. You will be charged for the rabies vaccine and injection; injecting immunoglobulin against hepatitis comes under public policy.

Strictly, the yellow fever vaccination certificate is the only mandatory one but some governments demand a cholera vaccination certificate. You will probably be charged around £3 for a vaccination certificate.

Centres like the British Airways Travel and Immunization Centre, 75 Regent Street W1 (Tel: 01-439 9584) or the PPP Medical Centre, 99 New Cavendish Street W1 (Tel: 01-637 8941) or Thomas Cook Ltd, 45 Berkeley Street W1 (Tel: 01-499 4000) provide a full vaccination package. Bear in mind they are not part of the NHS so the costs may seem high.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

From the founder member of Pink Floyd

**Roger Waters**

and

**ERIC CLAPTON  
MEL COLLINS  
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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Anyone for Ten?

So exasperatingly dull is the Euro-election that even Cabinet ministers are reluctant to get involved. Keen to interview senior figures for its election special this Sunday, Radio 4 presenter Brian Redhead approached, successively, Norman Tebbit, Trade Secretary, Michael Heseltine (Defence), Patrick Jenkin (Agriculture), Tom King (Employment) and Nigel Lawson (the Chancellor). Thank you but no, they said. Finally Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, agreed to speak on Sunday - but only by telephone from Luxembourg. BBC television fared a shade better after much casting around, but has only secured Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, and Norman Fowler (Health), neither of whom has much to do with Europe. I am assured the fact that Lawson is hosting a garden party for Tory bigwigs at his Leicestershire home on Sunday is totally unconnected.



● Mark Batchelor, London North East's Tory Euro-candidate, modestly fails to list under "Conservative Achievements" in his leaflet the most spectacular coup of all. According to the accompanying map, the Community has annexed East Germany and Liechtenstein.

### Ranjit's revenge

The Victoria and Albert Museum faces its own, more pressing version of the Elgin Marbles syndrome. It is the gold-sheathed throne of Ranjit Singh, founder and ruler between 1799 and 1839 of the last Sikh kingdom in the Punjab. After his death the British annexed the kingdom and "removed" the throne, but it is now becoming an increasingly potent symbol to Sikh nationalists. In 1978 the V & A declined to "lend" the throne to India, and now Harchand Singh Longowal, militant leader of the Sikh Akali Dal party, has announced his support for its return. For the time being, however, the V & A can fob off Sikh approaches by saying it will consider only requests direct from the Indian government. In the circumstances, that is the last thing that government would do.

● Moray Council on Alcoholism has just held its annual general meeting - at Miltouff malt whisky distillery, outside Elgin.

### Time fuse

A reason given by Neil Kinnock for resigning as Michael Foot's PPS in 1975 was to finish a book on Anurin Bevan's speeches. In the 1975 *Who's Who* entry, Kinnock says that *As Nye Said* was published that year. In his 1976 and 1977 entries he says it came out in 1976, and in 1978's he gives the publication date as 1977. In 1979 and again in 1980 he says the book came out in the same year as the current editions of *Who's Who*. Yesterday it transpired it has never been published. George Drower's biography of the Labour leader - which will be published by Weidenfeld next month - reveals that when challenged on the alleged publication, Kinnock stammered: "It's... in four cardboard boxes, in the attic at the moment, having been moved there from the garage. Er, I just haven't had time to finish it off."

### Man and boyo

Kinnock is not all talk. "Ebullient, slapdash and of average intelligence," the Labour leader may have little academic work at university, but tells his biographer "I had a hell of a good time." He claims he excelled at chatting up the girls, and did "a fair bit of courting." When he first spotted Glenys - a former Miss National Savings beauty queen - he was "determined to pick her up at the Saturday night dance." Unfortunately a rugby injury - and a couple of pints, "caused him to swoon and collapse on the dance floor." Shades of Brighton beach?

### Six-cylinder

After my report yesterday on British Rail being condemned for advertising its Inter-City trains as punctual, I hear that Toyota has also been lambasted. The *Sunday Mirror*, which carried the first pictures of the Wallon sexcuplets in December, printed a full-page ad for an eight-seater Toyota car beneath the headline: "Well done Mr and Mrs Wallon. Now, how about getting them home..." The Wallons objected, and the Advertising Standards Authority this week upheld their complaint, describing it as "an unjustifiable commercial exploitation of the Wallons' fame". The family's solicitor has now written to the *Mirror* suggesting either it does "the decent thing" and shares the estimated £15,000 which Toyota paid for the ad, or he sues.

PHS

# Why Solidarity is standing trial

Warsaw

Adam Michnik, a bright, intense man with a stammer, a dissident since schooldays, has always known what he wanted, for himself and for Poland. From his prison cell for the past 30 months he has smuggled out a stream of letters fighting for the right to be put on trial, a trial that would expose the whole anatomy of the Solidarity revolution and the way it was quashed. This week his wish was granted.

The fairy godmother was General Jaruzelski who, after long months of trying to avoid what will probably be the most sensitive political trial in Poland for three decades, has gritted his teeth and decided that the case of the four KOR dissidents should be brought to court.

Michnik, Jacek Kuronowa - who this week began a hunger strike - Henry Wujec and Zbigniew Romaszewski face charges of "preparing to overthrow the state with force" and a possible 10-year jail sentence. Trial will be held in a military court, which can bar the public and reporters, and, if it begins on time on July 13, will last until deep into the autumn. There is going to be no swift exorcism of the Solidarity era.

The Roman Catholic Church is obviously upset. It has tried through intermediaries to negotiate the freedom of the Solidarity 11 - the four KOR dissidents and the seven Solidarity leaders - and although talks had come to a

standstill, the prime's advisers had not entirely given up hope. The United Nations secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, who has also invested some effort and some prestige into trying to sell a temporary emigration ticket to the prisoners, will also be disappointed. The KOR trial has simply, by dint of being delayed for so long, acquired powerful symbolic importance.

The most obvious explanation for the trial is that it is a "concession" to Moscow, with its new leader clamouring for order. But things are never quite as simple as that in Poland.

The authorities have come round to the idea of a more or less open confrontation with KOR in the courtroom because of legal advice, possible propaganda advantage and medium-term political gains. First, the prosecution appears to have prepared a case against KOR that effectively declares many of the members' prepared defences null and void. According to KOR member Jan Josef Lipski - his charges have been suspended because of a serious heart ailment - the prosecution will try to exclude all detailed discussion of the KOR "intervention bureau" which tried actively to help workers persecuted or imprisoned after the 1976 riots. The activities of the bureau clearly show that KOR was set up as an aid to ordinary people rather than as a conspiratorial association. The pros-

ecutor, by arguing that the bureau is the subject of a separate investigation, will try to factor it out of the trial, argues Dr Lipski in a recent issue of the émigré monthly *Kultura*.

The second element in the government decision is that it has gained a marginal propaganda edge. Because it was the prisoners who rejected the offer of intermediaries for conditional release - renunciation of political activities or temporary emigration in return for freedom - it is the prisoners who bear the "blame" for the trial. "They had their chance," the government can argue. "Now we have got down to business."

Finally, the announcement of the KOR trial this week, only days before local council elections, is an important part in a three-act play. The first act came at the weekend when the police arrested Bogdan Lis, one of the main underground Solidarity leaders. Moral: the underground leadership are hollow men, in the pockets of the West, and we can pick them up any time we want. Second act was the announcement of the KOR trial. Moral: we are confident enough that our arguments will win against the opposition even in court. We are not at all embarrassed. The third act comes on Sunday when the authorities will endeavour to show that 75 per cent or 85 per cent of the country is sufficiently in favour of the system to turn up at the polls, despite the

boycott blandishments of Solidarity.

The overall effect is supposed to be that of firm control and a keen sense of direction. Intellectuals with close links to the church say: "If that is what the government wants to feel, let it feel that way." In any case, they say, the West should not jump into hasty action because of the trial. If the government can feel in command and can show Moscow that this is the case, then it can afford perhaps to relax. The KOR trial is not pleasant but it is fundamentally what the prisoners wanted. If the trial allows the government to give amnesty to the some 600 other political prisoners - perhaps even including the Solidarity seven - then perhaps some good can come of it. By the time the KOR trial has ended the four dissidents will already have served almost three years in prison. A clever defence in court could conceivably have some of the charges thrown out and the prisoners may not have to spend too much time in jail.

But Solidarity members dismiss this line of thought as Machiavellian and unnecessarily defeatist. In any case, the main point of the trial would be to carry the struggle with the authorities from the streets into the courtroom, where the dry, ironic, coughs of barristers replace the thump of tear gas canisters hitting cobblestones. Perhaps that is a kind of progress.

Roger Boyes

Peter Lennon assesses the rivals for Trudeau's mantle

## Mr Blunder or Mr Backwoods?

As Pierre Trudeau lives out the last days of a reign which outlasted virtually every other contemporary world leader, Canadians might be expected to have a sense of imminent deprivation at the loss of its most charismatic prime minister. Instead they are hungry for change: there was increasing disillusionment with Trudeau's remote and autocratic style, which equated dissent with disloyalty, and his compulsory bilingualism had lost the Liberal party all its support in the west.

The Canadians are preoccupied not with Trudeau's departure but with tomorrow's leadership election in Ottawa and with the general election which will follow.

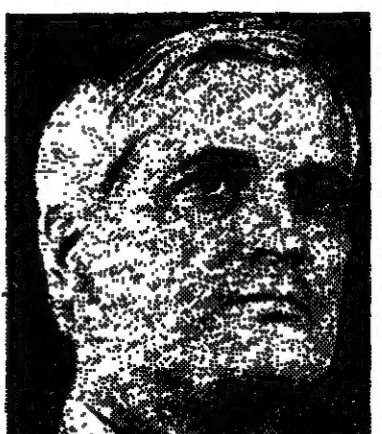
The new leader will be chosen by groups of seven delegates representing ridings (constituencies) throughout the country. "Affirmative action" on women's rights has meant that two of each group must be women. Two also represent youth.

Of the seven candidates, John Turner, aged 55, English born and former justice and later finance minister, who resigned in a huff from Trudeau's cabinet and from politics eight years ago, and Jean Chrétien, 50-year-old French-Canadian Energy Minister, are the only two left in the winning stretch.

If the Liberal Party was impatient to be rid of Trudeau it was partly because of a cherished belief that waiting in the wings was a Dauphin of such overwhelming ability and potential popular appeal that the party would pass effortlessly into a glorious revival. Having held power for 41 of the past 50 years it was beginning to dip badly below the Conservatives in the polls. When John Turner, handsome, athletic, forceful, a corporate lawyer and long-time rival of Trudeau, declared his candidacy there was an almost indecent rush of Trudeau ministers to his bandwagon - and a marked gain in the polls.

But Turner has some uneasiness to quell: after eight years it was feared he might have lost his grip on the electorate, and if he was a glamorous figure to his contemporaries, young voters were not so sure he was the man to deal with contemporary issues.

Turner's task was to demonstrate that he was a good stump politician, not just a boardroom man. To this end he invited journalists to travel



Turner: bruised image. Chrétien: a lot of catching up

with him on his campaign bus touring Quebec country ridings. Turner, fluently bilingual, was challenging Chrétien in his own province.

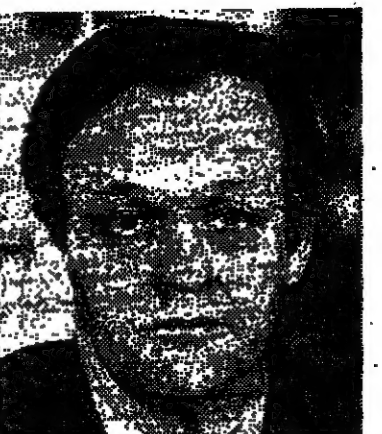
By the time we joined the coach Turner's image as an astute politician had taken a bruising. He began to be known for his blunders, and notorious for his "clarifications". He had blundered on the language issue; had drawn public fire from Trudeau on the disputed reasons for having resigned from the cabinet, and rounded on a journalist for "bootlegging" into a press conference a harmless question about capital punishment.

Later in the bus, Turner felt obliged to "clarify" what he meant by "life imprisonment" although this was in no way an issue of the election.

As the day wore on Turner worked hard on his Chariton Heston image: the grunting baritone, the jaw snapping a lame response with sardonic certainty; the fist striking a feeble point into submission. His defensiveness and lack of confidence began to be a serious worry to his supporters.

When questioned his eyes would often fill with a wild surmise like a method actor who cries out "But what is my character?" Only on challenges concerning business - some bad investments of one of his companies; a potential conflict of interests in his directorships - did he display real confidence and decision. He was a man flailing in an attempt to live up to a myth imposed upon him.

His Rip Van Winkle problem was



evident in his handling of a new, and for macho men, treacherous element in warring delegates. Affirmative action had resulted in 33 per cent of the Liberal delegates being women. In public references to this development Turner had an unfortunate way of chuckling as if to signal the boys in the locker room that this was not really his scene, but he had to go along with it.

In office, Turner had the reputation of being a resolute minister, well able to master his dossiers and be a match for civil servants. He is the candidate of the business world. Professor Mel Watkins, lecturer in economics at the University of Toronto, who worked with Turner and headed a federal government task force on foreign ownership in the late 1960s said: "He is essentially a right-wing person. His notion of tax reform is to abolish corporate tax. He thinks there is some injustice in taxing companies."

Jean Chrétien's image problem is the reverse of Turner's. A populist, jocular man from the backwoods of Shawinigan but experienced minister - finance, Indian affairs, and now energy - he is happy on his feet punching with press and public. He has learned to sit still and sound like a statesman. In public he is given to homely declarations of love for Canada, and one of his favourite quotes is St Exupéry's "You see well only with the heart."

He deliberately chose to be interviewed in an uncharacteristic setting: his Ottawa suburban drawing room, heavily scrutinised by documents through spectacles. He spoke in low, heavily accented English.

He was disarmingly candid. "My problem is nobody looked on me in the past as the next prime minister. I have a lot of catching up to do." He enjoys snapping at Turner. "It will be more difficult if Turner gets in," he said. "Because he will have to create a new ministry - the ministry of clarifications."

Chrétien is a convinced federalist determined to keep discipline in the provinces. "Turner says if he gets in, there will be no bickering with the provinces. I say there will be. The prime minister cannot be a head waiter for the provincial governments." He is confident of women's support. On energy, he would push for 50 per cent ownership of Canadian natural resources (American ownership is over 60 per cent).

In a multi-racial country, whose solution is not the American melting pot but harmonious coexistence of ethnic groups, Chrétien's line is, "You can be different and still be Canadian." Last Sunday these two, with the five other long-shot candidates, took part in a crucial television debate. John Turner finally displayed his ability as a confident political debater and played down his corporate image. Many believe this was the decisive moment of recovery for Turner who is now fairly certain to convince the majority of the uncommitted that, a natural conservative himself, he is the man to beat the Conservative leader, Brian Mulroney, in the general election.

August, they say, is a likely time, just before the Pope's visit in mid-September. But the country is abnormally pacific. All the traditional problems are on "hold": the separatist Quebec issue has deflated, temporarily, René Lévesque is in decline; the language issue has been partly neutralized having been taken out of politics and into the courts; the peace movement is quiescent.

There is one energizing factor. Three years ago, on the issue of ownership of its natural resources, the Canadian government, despite threats of retaliation, stood up to the Americans and discovered to surprise they were not swallowed up next day. Among senior civil servants the sense of achievement is said to be high and they are not likely to allow any new prime minister to easily reverse that trend.

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## In the Sotheby's jungle, a battle for Guevara's diaries

Who do Che Guevara's diaries belong to? The question is already exercising a number of London's best legal brains. It could come to exercise several more. Indeed it has the making of an international cause célèbre, except that the cost of resolving the issue in international law would be so enormous that the matter will presumably be settled out of court.

The diaries in question are those kept by Che Guevara during his Bolivian guerrilla campaign of 1966-67. They were among his possessions when he was captured and summarily executed by the Bolivian army in October, 1967, and they have now been consigned for sale at Sotheby's the London auctioneers, by an unnamed owner.

His value is estimated at £250,000. Late on Monday afternoon the Bolivian government, acting through a firm of London solicitors, issued a writ demanding the return of the diaries from Sotheby's. While stating that the diaries have spent most of the intervening period in a Bolivian army archive, they have so far given no indication of when or how the diaries were missing. But a suggestion that they were stolen is implicit in the claim for their return.

The auctioneers have also received a letter suggesting that the diaries properly belong to Che Guevara's next of kin. His wife, Alicia March, and five children who live in Cuba would therefore be the true owners. This is further underlined by another diary kept by Guevara's faithful lieutenant, Harry Villegas Tamayo, known as "Pombo", which was captured at the

same time and is also being offered for sale with an estimated value of £30,000.

"Pombo" is alive and well and living in Cuba. Unlike Che, he escaped capture by the Bolivian army and led the two other Cuban survivors in a 500-mile trek across the Andes to the safety of Chile. It is unclear why his diary was captured but the fact that Guevara kept notes on all the soldiers in his troop on pages from "Pombo's" notebook - now torn out and stapled together - suggests that at the crucial moment it may have been among his possessions.

So far neither "Pombo" nor Guevara's family has laid claim to the documents. The only reaction from Cuba has been a passionate denunciation in the national daily newspaper, *Granma*, of Western sources who had suggested that Cuba had any involvement in the theft of the diaries. The paper stated its indignation that "something as sacred as this document of Latin American history can be subjected to such manipulation by thieves and merchants... in the same way that yesterday without scruples they dragged chained slaves to public squares, today they sell off the inheritance of a hero dearly loved by the people."

Guevara's death at the hands of the Bolivian army set the seal on a legend. Having fought through the Cuban revolution at Castro's side and become his right hand man, Guevara smuggled himself and a tiny group of guerrillas into Bolivia in November, 1966, with the aim of creating "another Vietnam"



In the event, his little band was quickly broken. Guevara himself was captured and executed in October, 1967. After his death the Bolivian authorities went to considerable lengths to prove to the world press that he was really dead. His body was put on view in a small laundry in Vallegrande. The diaries were photographed and widely circulated. As a result, a Spanish edition was published in Cuba the following year and an English translation in America. They became arguably the most celebrated journals of their kind ever produced.

The 1966 diary is kept in a red spiral notebook, like a school exercise book; at the back Guevara has transcribed messages to and from Castro. The second covering the period from January to October 7, 1967, is kept in a medical appointment book produced by a German pharmaceutical company. "Pombo" is kept in a green plastic covered notebook and still has photographs of his wife and child in a pocket in the front flap.

The central mystery of the affair

One of the last pictures of Guevara before his death on October 9, 1967, and the final page of his diaries remains the identity of the person or persons who consigned the diaries to Sotheby's for sale. Recent political developments in Bolivia may provide a clue. After widespread strikes the military junta that ruled Bolivia for two decades was finally persuaded to hand over power to a democratically elected government in 1982. President Hernán Siles Suazo has successfully walked a political tightrope since then, leading a left-wing government supported by the communists on one hand and by Washington on the other.

The Defence Minister, Manuel Cardenas, has been reported as saying that the diaries disappeared from the vault of Bolivia's intelligence agency before the democratic government took over 19 months ago. He is said to have ordered an investigation. This would suggest that the diaries may have left the country in the hands of one of the discredited army leaders.

It seems unlikely, however, that the present left-wing government is acting in concert with Cuba or Guevara's relatives. Their solicitor's letter to Sotheby's, explaining the basis of the government's claim to ownership, presents the guerrillas in a highly disparaging light. "They were criminals. They died. How they died does not seem to us to make any difference. We mention this only because there may well be controversy about it." There may well, indeed.

Geraldine Norman

David Watt

## But we don't have to mark time too

The most important international event of the past fortnight has been the final, desperate achievement of Walter Mondale in amassing the magic tally of votes necessary for the Democratic nomination.

Nothing, of course, is certain in American presidential politics. A financial crash brought on by Third World debt; a gasco in the Gulf as an unpopular move in Central America; or even some sudden demonstration of Reagan's age and mortality - any of these could change the picture dramatically between now and November. But Reagan has the quality Napoleon demanded of his generals - he is lucky. And sudden capitalists being therefore unlikely, the certainty that Mondale will now be Ronald Reagan's challenger in the presidential election makes it a near-certainty that the world is in for another four years of Reagan.

Would it have been otherwise if Senator Gary Hart's rival candidacy had succeeded? Perhaps it might. The Hart boom started off as a media "hype", yet he might just have beaten Reagan in November, all the same, for the simple reason that he brought an important new constituency to the Democrat camp - the "Yuppies" (or Young, Upwardly-mobile Professionals, to those who do not keep up with the latest outrages of American sociology) of California and the Midwest. This exotic but teeming breed probably voted for Reagan last time and will never vote for an old-style, high-tax-high-welfare Democrat like Mondale.

One immediate implication of another Reagan term is that we are unlikely to get much sense of substance out of summit meetings until 1985 at the earliest. This president is simply unable and/or unwilling to do serious business at these gatherings unless absolutely forced by crisis or by his colleagues to do so. Calamitous events may, perhaps, take a hand but which of the colleagues is going to stick his or her neck out? Only President Mitterrand shows any disposition for serious cooperative action on economic questions.

Another, related, point arises from the fact that the Latin American debt crisis is obviously going to be left to the technicians. Reagan cannot afford a major commercial bank failure between now and election day and he must therefore be confident that the IMF and the central bankers will be able to paper over the cracks until the debtor countries have their hoped-for balance of payments bonanza at which time the problem will dissolve.

In a way, this looks like an encouraging deduction from the apparent insouciance of the summit, until one looks at the other side of the election coin. Reagan evidently has no intention whatever of cutting back the bloated American defence budget in order to reduce the American deficit; nor will Congress in this pre-election period cut welfare. Result: no reduction of American interest rates for foreseeable future and a strong dollar - both vastly increasing the problems of the debtor nations.

With no relief in sight from a possible Mondale victory, there will be an increasing temptation for them to put their prospective cartel into action and simply refuse to pay. The other area - immediately affected by the latest turn of events

is East-West relations. "It has been clear since the end of last year that Reagan's political advisers were sufficiently worried by the American peace movement and the possible effect of constant complaints from Europe about the President's gun-slinging image to decide to retort for the 1984 campaign. The 1983 rhetoric about the Soviet Union as an 'empire of evil' would be thrown out and new equipment - reasonableness, moderation, a sincere desire for peace - installed. This machinery is already in use, as we saw in Reagan's Irish speeches."

What, if anything, does this mean in the real world as opposed to the Disneyland of the campaign? Very little. Give or take some very minor ideas, which do not even merit the name of "initiatives", the President is in effect simply standing pat on present defence, policies and challenging the Russians to change their own stance if they don't like it.

The question is whether the Russians are more likely to reexamine their position now that they see a high probability of having to deal with Reagan for another four years than they would have been if it looked as if he was in trouble. My impression, and that of recent non-Nato travellers to Moscow, is that the Russians, being realists, will eventually decide to rearm on arms control negotiations even with an interlocutor they find incomprehensible as well as detestable; but that they will not let a finger in this direction until the election is over and probably not (for reasons of "face") until well into next year. In the meantime the probability of a Reagan victory will merely harden their public position.

The broad international prospect until well into 1985 is therefore one of immobility at best, with a possibility of financial earthquake if things go wrong. This is the kind of situation in which hidden pressures build up and the future trends gather momentum. Some of these, such as growing protectionism, can be fairly easily predicted. Others, such as a further increase of popular anti-Americanism in Europe, are more speculative. What seems quite clear is that the countries of western Europe, are not themselves condemned to immobility. On the contrary, it is strongly in their interest to take advantage of the "pause" to prepare themselves for Reagan's second term.

Ideally this would mean looking at East-West relations, macroeconomic policy, Third World debt, the Middle East, technology transfer, and a host of lesser political and economic points of friction, with a view to finding a stance which would protect common European interests against the effects of American unilateralism, and would maximize European influence in Washington. This, is not... or certainly need not be - a question of anti-Americanism at government level. It is a matter of trying to make the Western Alliance work better in the prevailing, and now probably continuing, conditions of Reaganism. There is some ground for belief that, in principle, Mrs Thatcher recognizes this need as well as President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl. The crucial question is whether she, and they, are prepared to pay a real short-term political and economic price in their domestic environment to set this process in motion.

Philip Howard

## Top ten in that other Europoll

My lords, ladies, and gentlemen; boys and girls; and the rest of you out there: I have great pleasure, and indeed privilege, in announcing the result of *The Times* poll to pick the Top Ten Greatest Dead European Writers of all time. Those of you with retentive memories will know what I am on about. For the benefit of those of you who were flicking ink pellets at the back of the class, or staring out of the window at the groundsman mowing the cricket pitch, I will give a brief résumé. The rest of you can stand down for a paragraph.

*Life* magazine, the French literary publication roughly equivalent to our own beloved *TLS*, organized a Europoll of its readers and those of *The Times*, *Die Zeit*, *La Stampa*, and *El País* to pick the Top Ten Greatest Dead European Writers, hereafter referred to, for the purpose of compendiousness, as TOG DEW. Readers from one country could vote for writers of the other four, but not their own.

The four foreign publications gave their readers a short-list of 40 names to select from, with pictures and little boxes for ticks. For reasons of the new technology too complex to go into here, *The Times* merely invited its readers to send in lists of their top ten French, German, Italian, and Spanish authors. A computer collated the results on the first-past-the-post system, rather than by proportional representation: that is to say, an author voted second on the Italian list was given the same weight in the final placings as the Number Two British author, even though he may have received three times as many votes.

Is that clear? Good. Pay attention, the rest of you. Here are the final, and I promise that they really are final, results of the Great Europoll TOG DEW:

1. Shakespeare. 2. Goethe. 3. Cervantes. 4. Dante. 5. Kafka. 6. Proust and Mann (equal). 8. Molière. 9. Joyce. 10. Dickens.

Accordingly, I have pleasure in declaring that they are TOG DEW, or the Top Ten Greatest Dead European Writers of all time.

For rostersmen and other star-

istic-freaks among you, I append the next 15 names in the Europoll:

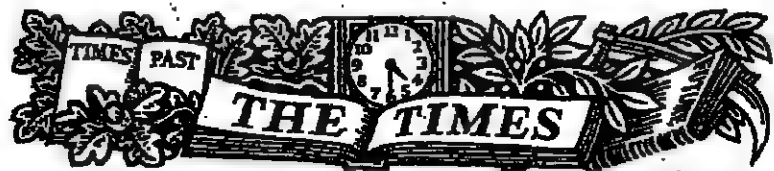
11. García Lorca. 12. Balzac. 13. Boccaccio and Voltaire (equal). 15. Brecht. 16. Stendhal. 17. Petrarca. 18. Victor Hugo and Schiller (equal). 20. Bandelstein. 21. Flaubert. 22. Virginia Woolf. 23. Pirandello. 24. Conrad. 25. Calderón.

Your British adjudicator would like to make a few comments. 1. Winning prizes, and coming first in polls, is not the most important thing in life or literature. There are a vast number of writers in all five countries who are never going to get on TOG DEW, but who are nevertheless going to continue to delight and amaze for as long as people read.

2. Shakespeare Rules, OK? 3. The fact that the first French writer on the list comes sixth (Proust, hurry, but surprising, *heint*) should not be taken as a judgment on French literature in any way inferior. The other four countries each had a writer who was clearly considered a superstar. France had a constellation of stars. 4. *Par exemple*, referring back to para 3, France took seven of the top 20 places, compared with Britain's three. European perceptions of great British writers differ remarkably from British perceptions. Because of misadventure... (Whoops!) as an interesting concomitant experiment, *The Times* ran its own poll of readers to select their Top Ten British writers. Several of those voted the greatest by the Europeans (admittedly, having been set up as sitting ducks by being included on the poll sheet) did not score well in the British poll. Joyce received only 32 British votes; perhaps some of you considered him to be Irish. Conrad got 23 votes. And Virginia Woolf not a single vote, alas. There were 167 British voters, and most of you managed to think of 10 British writers.

5. GIGO: Garbage In, Garbage Out. Or, as they say on the farm, "What do you expect from a pig but a grunt?" Polling is a bogus science, mumbo-jumbo of charlatans. Why the media devote so much time and space and money to opinion polls beats me.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234.

## THE LONG HAUL

Without benefit of hindsight it is often difficult to recognize a turning point in political events at the time. But it is at least possible that Wednesday's collapse of talks in the mining dispute may prove to have marked the end of one phase of the conflict and the beginning of another. The talks never seemed, in their four brief and furtive sessions, to offer a very hopeful prospect of settlement. But at least talking was going on, and a week ago there even seemed a shred of hope that progress was being made on the most sensitive issue of all, the pace of closures. No doubt one of the purposes of Mr MacGregor's interview in *The Times* this week, with its optimistic production projections which are said to have caused his fellow-board members, was to plant a mood of promise in preparation for Wednesday's meeting.

Now those hopes are at an end, and they are not likely to revive for a long time. The possibility that the strike really may stretch on into the winter, as both sides have rhetorically suggested, now seems not at all remote. Certainly a settlement early enough for miners' families to salvage even fragments of their holiday plans looks unlikely. As time passes, miners can imagine better than any outside commentators what damage the weeks of dispute must be doing to the seams and equipment on which their livelihoods depend. The scant care the union has taken to minimize this damage by providing maintenance teams is perhaps the clearest mark of all of the reckless mood of the strike's leaders.

This is the kind of moment that tests the cohesion of a body of strikers most keenly. Many

must have been swallowing their misgivings in the hope that peace with honour might be just round the corner, and now they can see that it probably is not. Some at least will be forced to the conclusion that enough is enough, and join the ranks of those already working. But the scenes at the pit gate and the allegations of intimidation at home after dark have made it plain to us all how much moral courage is required to take that initiative.

The sense of conviction in the pro-strike areas is so intense, even apart from the question of intimidation, that it would be unwise to predict that a significant flow back to work will now do so. But it can be said that in all other aspects of the deadlock movement appears less likely. This immobility at all other points is almost entirely the work of Mr Scargill. His list of demands on Wednesday, harder in important respects than the terms the union had spoken of earlier, must have been presented in the certainty that they would be rejected. If there was an incipient glimmer of a bargain, they seem designed to eliminate all grounds of compromise.

Mr Scargill's tactics throughout have been a study. The curious hypnotic sway of his rhetoric - it is a lie that coal stocks are still substantial, but the onset of winter will put the ball in the miners' court; the Nottingham defection is crippling the union's efforts, but one more push will ensure victory - and his resourceful engineering of dramatic new turns of events, have been calculated to keep the emotional level high and concentrate attention on each new twist. Negotiation in the customary sense is quite alien to his public stance: it is all or nothing.

Of course there is more to it than that. Mr MacGregor's comment that he is Jekyll in private and Hyde in public is not implausible. There have been times in the past when he has hustled his opponents into concessions and then stood intemperately aloof while his colleagues clinched an advantageous compromise: it is the old tactic of the hard man and the soft man. Its success depends in the last resort on whether he frightens the NCB more than he does his own followers.

If the long haul is now setting in, as appears to be the case, the board, and other employers facing losses through secondary action, have to consider what to do next. Mr MacGregor yesterday was rightly pointing out the divisive and undemocratic consequences of the union's refusal to hold a national ballot. He suggested that the board might hold a ballot of its own. This would be a perfectly proper step in itself, one that worked wonders for Sir Michael Edwards at British Leyland.

But that was in a different situation, with a more homogeneous workforce denied expression of their views by manipulation of the shopfloor ballot. We already know that the miners are divided. The NUM's obvious response would be to declare a boycott of the poll, and thus make itself the beneficiary of all votes not cast, whether through doubt, inertia or mere dislike of such a move from the employer's side. It would be almost impossible to secure a response too high to be shrugged away. The real need now is to let the implications of the long haul quietly sink in, for miners and for the public; and in the meantime to think quietly and seriously about tactics for the winter.

## SIX REPUBLICS IN SEARCH OF A ROLE

Yugoslav communists have a difficult time finding a role for themselves in a system that is supposed to be driven by self-managing workers responding to market forces. They have power at local level but they are not a unifying force at the federal level: they are as dedicated to regional interests as everyone else. At their Central Committee meeting this week calls for unity have been countered by equally passionate pleas for open discussion from those who point out that the system is designed to accommodate pluralism.

This debate reflects the wider and still inconclusive debate taking place in Yugoslavia over how to move forward now that President Tito's commanding presence is no longer available to hold the country together. Considering the fears that were expressed before his death in 1980 the country is not doing too badly. Civil war, military rule, Soviet invasion and other much-discussed disasters have been avoided so far. Recently the first change of leadership since his death took place, bringing in a new collective presidency, the nine-man body created by Tito to replace himself. Most of its members are Tito's old men, and they owe their authority to nothing easily recognizable as an election, but for the moment the centre holds.

This is all the more striking because the country is being pushed through a very painful economic adjustment made necessary largely by mismanagement during Tito's later years, when Yugoslavia over-borrowed, over-spent and invested poorly. As world recession closed in it found itself with a lot of unproductive industries, high fuel bills and insufficient export

potential, so it now faces a long period of austerity as it struggles to cope with a hard currency debt of about \$20 billion.

Yugoslavs themselves seem surprised that they have put up with sixty per cent inflation, a thirty per cent drop in living standards and nearly a million unemployed. Among the reasons they do so are that control is still tight, that many people make money on the side, that the cumbersome system of self-management helps spread the blame, and that the government has earned some conditional credibility by its efforts to get out of the mess.

Instead of retreating into protectionism and central control the regime has been working with the IMF to cut imports, improve exports, reform the price system and introduce as much of a market economy as it can without wholly abandoning its socialist ideals. Private enterprises are now allowed more employees, or any number if they contract to supply socialized industries. Private farmers are receiving additional encouragement. The price freeze imposed last year is being lifted gradually. Against strong local opposition, some uneconomic plants are being closed.

The results so far are encouraging but still limited, and the IMF is pressing for more. The government is particularly proud of having achieved a \$300 million surplus in convertible currency last year. Experts suspect this owes something to counting payments that will not come through this year, but even if the figure is near the truth it is an improvement on the deficit of \$3.3 billion in 1979.

The still unanswered question is whether Yugoslavia can reform its economy without

deeper changes in its political system than it feels able to risk at present. Decision-making is hamstrung by the near sovereign powers of the six republics and two autonomous provinces, each with its own vast hierarchies of party and government and each with representatives in the federal bodies devoted to defending local interests. Like the European Community, Yugoslavia does not have a true common market, nor uniform business conditions, and since many decisions at the federal level have to be taken by consensus they are often not taken at all. Nor is a consensus available for moving to majority voting on more issues. There is talk of using emergency powers to break through the deadlock but that would be thought risky.

The struggle is being watched closely in East and West. The Russians seem to have decided that pressure is counterproductive, so they have been fostering political, cultural and above all economic contacts, drawing hard-pressed areas of the Yugoslav economy into closer dependence on exports to Comecon. As a result, about half Yugoslavia's trade could be with Comecon by 1986, according to Yugoslav experts, who are unhappy at the prospect.

The West is ahead ideologically in so far as Yugoslavia is working closely with Western banks and other institutions and appears determined to increase its exposure to market forces. But formal non-alignment remains a central policy on which nearly all Yugoslavs agree. If it helps to stabilize Yugoslavia's position between East and West, without actually inhibiting its social and economic progress towards a more open system, so much the better.

and was formally recommended by Aristotle.

If we are now reverting to such practices after the Christian episode, should we not admit the fact in all candour, with no use of such euphemistic evasions as "a potential human life"? Yours sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER DERRICK,  
25 Park Hill Road,  
Wallington, Surrey.

### VAT on building

From the President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Sir, The Government's proposal to amend the Finance Bill in such a way that alterations to "listed" buildings will continue to be zero-rated for VAT purposes is important in the interests of conservation. But this in no way removes the retrospective and damaging effect of the VAT changes on pre-Budget contracts for alterations to non-listed buildings.

The plain fact remains that a person or company who entered into a building contract before March 13 to alter or reconstruct a non-listed building is to pay 15 per cent more than he would in the case of a large project the extra cost may run into many thousands of pounds, or even millions. Retrospective legislation has

rightly been eschewed in this country by governments of all political persuasions. Yet here is an example of tax legislation which is most clearly retrospective in its effect.

It is no answer at all for the Government to claim, as it has, that building owners could avoid the new VAT commitment by paying for the contract in full before June 1. This is simply not a practical proposition for a large contract which is not scheduled for completion until 1985 or later, or which is due for completion in several phases.

Nor is it an answer to say the Government has, to allow relief for pre-Budget contracts would cost too much. If the loss to revenue from such relief would be great (£100m has been mentioned), that is the measure of the unfair and inequitable burden to be imposed retrospectively. All in all, this is a thoroughly bad piece of tax legislation. But it is never too late to admit that a mistake was made and we must hope that the Government will, even at this eleventh hour, think again.

Yours faithfully,  
CLIFFORD DANN, President,  
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,  
12 Great George Street,  
Parliament Square,  
Westminster, SW1.

## Conscience at the polytechnic

From Professor David Beetham and others

Sir, In the press discussion of the recent events at the Polytechnic of North London a great deal of attention has been devoted to the civil liberties of Patrick Harrington, the National Front student. As academics, we would, however, like to draw attention to another aspect of the affair which threatens fundamental principles of higher education in this country.

On May 1 a National Front associate of Harrington's took photographs of students who were preventing his entry into the polytechnic in defiance of a court order. Subsequently Harrington notified the court that he wanted the polytechnic to identify 20 of those who had been photographed (chosen by Harrington out of a greater number).

When the polytechnic's appeal against a court order urging compliance with this demand was overruled the director of the polytechnic instructed the academic staff to make the identification. However, the overwhelming majority of staff felt unable to do this and sought legal advice.

This led to the present situation in which two heads of department and 11 course tutors are now going to the Court of Appeal in the hope that a decision of the High Court instructing them to make the identification will be overturned. Should they fail, they will ultimately be faced with a choice between contempt of court (and possible imprisonment or fines) or identification of the students to the court and the National Front.

In our view, a court order to them to identify the students would undermine the traditional role and duties of academic staff, with grave repercussions far beyond the present case.

Lecturers are both teachers who seek to impart knowledge and to promote critical analysis amongst their students, and are also personal tutors who act as advisers and writers of references. Both the teaching and pastoral roles depend upon the establishment of an atmosphere of mutual confidence and trust.

This whole relationship, on which successful higher education is dependent, would be shattered if academics were expected to act as police in a case of this kind.

The cause of the polytechnic staff is vital for the future of academic freedom.

Yours etc.  
DAVID BEETHAM (Leeds University),  
R. B. BERNSTEIN (Institute of Education, University of London),  
MALCOLM BOWIE (Queen Mary College),  
R. K. BROWN (University of Durham),  
G. A. COHEN (University College London),  
BERNARD CRICK (Ridgeway College),  
W. R. DAVIES (Chelsea College of Science and Technology),  
MICHAEL DUMMETT (New College, Oxford),  
HARVEY GOLDSTEIN (Institute of Education, University of London),  
ALAN GRIFFITHS (University College London),  
A. G. GRIFFITHS (University of London),  
A. J. GURR (University of Reading),  
FRED HARTMAN (Ridgeway College),  
J. HERSZBERG (Ridgeway College),  
KEITH KIMBERLEY (Institute of Education, University of London),  
STEPHEN LUKES (Balliol College, Oxford),  
L. J. MACFARLANE (St John's College, Oxford),  
ALEX MELLORS (Institute of Education, University of London),  
P. R. SALMON (University of Edinburgh),  
VIVIAN SALMON (University of Edinburgh),  
ARON H. SHEER (University of Warwick),  
BRIAN SMOLAN (University of Leicester),  
TIMOTHY SPRING (University of Edinburgh),  
CHARLES WESTER (Carleton College, Oxford),  
RICHARD WOLLESEN (University of London),  
c/o Polytechnic of North London,  
Department of History, Philosophy and European Studies,  
Prince of Wales Road, NW5.  
June 8.

## National Art Library

From the Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum

Sir, I was surprised to read the letter of Mr Alistair Laing and others (June 11) concerning the temporary closure of the National Art Library. Contrary to what it implies, full advance warning was repeatedly given of its closure.

Since 1973 the library has been the victim of no less than four major floods, with serious damage to books, the last, in 1982, leaving us with no other alternative but to embark on major refurbishment.

At the moment there is no heating, the electrical wiring is dangerous, the floors are in a continuous state of disrepair and the rooms are filled with scaffolding.

We now know that we shall be able to maintain an interim service from Monday to Thursday as from June 25, although total closure will have to occur again from time to time in response to major works.

The National Art Library is only one small part of the 12 acres of building which make up the V & A. An estimated £26m is urgently required to put the fabric of the museum, whose basic services have reached the end of their working life, into order.

Readers of *The Times* will be aware that this is the first objective to which the new trustees, headed by Lord Carrington, have applied themselves. Yours faithfully,  
ROY STRONG, Director,  
Victoria and Albert Museum,  
South Kensington, SW7.

are used inopportunely. We therefore accept the need for a concept of stop/search (including traffic checks) to be a matter of regulation with clear parameters for police and public alike.

Secondly, a great deal has been said about the proposed power to detain a suspect without charge for 36 hours, subject to the authority of a superintendent, before he must appear before the court. At the present time detention in police custody can be open-ended and all critics of the Bill must surely concede that the proposal represents some improvement on what presently applies.

The provisions of the Bill dealing with detention without charge have been drafted in the full knowledge of the small number of exceptional cases involving the most grave crimes where fairly prolonged detention is vital, subject to strict and proper safeguards.

To set an earlier time limit would oblige the police to bring charges which may not stand up in court or break off prematurely the investigation of a serious crime. The prosecution of grave crimes is essential to the protection of the public and the question the police service would pose is whether it is right, in a small number of cases, to abandon the search for justice in order to avoid detention for more than 36 hours.

Finally, many police powers under the Bill depend upon the

## A 'star wars' challenge to peace

From Professor Lawrence Freedman

Sir, The statement in today's leader (June 13) that "the age of deterrence has so confused the strategic mentality of many commentators that their reaction to a purely defensive system is to suggest that it increases the danger" reveals your own confusion.

You slide over a whole series of objections to the "star wars" enterprise, including the challenge it represents to Britain's own nuclear programme. You fail to recognise the lack of enthusiasm among responsible officials in the Pentagon over the gross waste of financial and scientific resources involved in pursuing a fruitless endeavour. The lack of independent scientific support for the concept is quite remarkable.

You also appear to believe that the leading advocates of "star wars" are interested in a partial defence. Such a defence might complicate the adversary's offensive plans, but we would still have to accept a vulnerability to nuclear destruction. Administration spokesmen, however, have made it clear that the Strategic Defense Initiative is about a complete impenetrable defence.

There is no such thing as a "purely defensive system" in the nuclear age. If both sides could achieve a perfect defence simultaneously that might take us out of the condition of mutual assured destruction, although it is highly unlikely that Western Europe would also be protected.

## Mrs Gandhi and Sikhs

From Mr Jamil Ahmad

Sir, Your editorial (June 8) on the Indian takeover of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest shrine of the Sikhs, fails to recognize the legitimacy of fundamental Sikh demands and goes on to justify Mrs Gandhi's action on the grounds that India's unity is paramount. The most important principle asserted in your article seems to be that army action had to be taken against Sikh extremists in order to deal with the potential threat posed to India's integrity.

The Sikhs are no doubt big, hard men who could put a lot of weight behind a sword swing, but to their loyalty, justice, honesty, gratitude and philanthropy were supreme virtues. There are some fanatics also.

To the Sikhs the temple of Amritsar was so holy that it was swept only with the brooms made of sacred peacock feathers. They submitted to direct British rule in 1849 without much trouble.

In 1857 they gave support to the British during the Indian Mutiny. The British were grateful, for without the Sikh soldiery on their side they might well have been

If only one side achieves the breakthrough then the sense of vulnerability of the other is going to be heightened. The transition period as one side moves from vulnerability to invulnerability would therefore be highly dangerous. Even if both achieved invulnerability there would always be anxiety that one side might achieve an offensive breakthrough.

These grand strategic problems are unlikely to arise. The awareness of the technical constraints and financial burden connected with a space-based defence has already led to substantial Congressional and official opposition.

The problem is that before the project grinds to a halt further damage will have been done to superpower and Alliance relations and to the one major achievement of arms control, the 1972 ABM treaty.

The main reason why many of us oppose "star wars" is the same reason why we oppose unilateralism. Both encourage the illusion that there is a solution either technical or political, to the problems of vulnerability in the nuclear age.

The answers to the risks of nuclear war lie in the realm of prudent statesmanship and not in the reckless pursuit of technological chimera.

Yours faithfully,  
LAWRENCE FREEDMAN,  
King's College London,  
Department of War Studies,  
Strand, WC2.  
June 13.

bundled out of India altogether. Many Sikhs have received high awards of gallantry for their services in the British Indian Army. There was no cowardice in the Sikh character, but there was not much mercy either.

When Brigadier-General Dyer asserted the rule of law through gunfire within the Sikh holy city of Amritsar in 1919, 379 persons were killed and 1,200 injured. The dead included those who were killed by being trampled in the stampede which followed.

Dyer's action was a turning point in the history of Anglo-Indian relations. British who ran the Empire were fair and Dyer was disgraced. What happened in the Golden Temple has far exceeded the deaths and casualties which shook the British Empire in 1919. The impact this time will be on the unity of the country under Mrs Gandhi.

By helping to create Bangladesh Mrs Gandhi has set a precedent which presents problems for India's own national cohesion and may provide incentives for Sikhs to demand a separate state of their own carved out of India this time round.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMIL AHMAD,  
14 Charrminster Avenue, SW19.

## Prince and architects

From the Reverend Julian Barker

Sir, Mr Richard Rogers (June 9) may or may not be right about the excellence of the leading modernist architects. However, his suggestion that public approval of modernism can be deduced from the fact that more people visit the Centre Pompidou than the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower combined is a magnificent example of the architectural *folie de grandeur* which many of us find so offensive.

Most people visit such buildings because of what they can see in or from them, not to see the buildings itself.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN BARKER,  
Repton Vicarage,  
Derby.

## Adopting babies

From Dr A. C. Carr

Sir, An interesting new form of "colour bar" has come into notice. We are fostering a Pakistani baby awaiting adoption, but no prospective parents have been found. We now learn that the social services have recently agreed a policy depriving white parents of the chance to adopt coloured babies, which will be placed wherever possible with similar parents.

This will obviously take longer, and may reduce their chance of being adopted at all.

Is this policy within the law? Yours etc,  
A. C. CARR,  
57 Parish Lane, SE20.  
June 6.

definition "a serious arrestable offence" and there is a lobby which considers that the present definition is drawn too wide. In our view, far from being too wide, it is only just sufficient to attach those powers in the Bill to the very serious offences for which they are needed.

We take the view that the present definition is acceptable in the interests of maintaining the balance and that any narrowing would seriously erode police effectiveness, and should therefore be rejected.

At the end of the debate it will, of course, be Parliament that determines the law under which we shall work and we have no wish to involve ourselves in the politics of the Bill. All we ask is that the debate takes proper cognisance of the implications for the public of any rise in crime due to the police service having been deprived of effective powers.

Far from preserving civil liberties, any further concessions or reductions in police powers can only serve to diminish the ultimate civil liberty - the liberty for the public to walk the streets in safety and the knowledge that the police have the powers to protect them.

Yours etc,  
D. HALL, President, Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland,  
COP Office,  
New Scotland Yard,  
Broadway, SW1.  
June 11.

## Differing views on diet and health

From the President of the Royal College of Physicians

Sir, The three articles by Mr Geoffrey Cannon (June 11, 12, 13) stress the importance of preventive medicine, a policy which is fully endorsed by the Royal College of Physicians (see our publications on smoking and health, obesity, dietary fibre).

In making the case for "a healthier way of life" it is important to distinguish between advice that is based on sound evidence and that which is less secure and therefore a matter of opinion.

The average British diet may well be unsatisfactory but there are different views about the relationship of diet to health and it must be said that much of the detailed advice given by Mr Cannon falls into the category of not yet proved.

Many medical institutions in this country and abroad have been concerned about these matters for a long time but have refrained from making categorical statements because of the uncertainty of prevailing knowledge. Yours faithfully,

R. HOFFENBERG, President,  
Royal College of Physicians,  
11 St Andrews Place,  
Regents Park, NW1.  
June 14.

## From Mr Brian Edsall

Sir, My calorie intake is 800 calories a day and a quarter bottle of gin, except on my birthday, when it is 1,000 calories and half a bottle of gin.

I work a 14-hour day, from 5 am to 7 pm, and do not jog. I am in my 76th year and wholly recovered from an operation for an abdominal aortic aneurism six years ago.

I do hope the Minister of Health will not make your recommended 1,200 calorie lunch, without gin, compulsory like seat belts, because if he does I shall be dead in a fortnight. Yours sincerely,

BRIAN EDSALL,  
102 Warwick Way,  
Pimlico, SW1.  
June 13.

## Strain in society

From Mr Stephen Fry

Sir, What a strange letter to lead with (June 13). Your writer, C. H. F. Blake, believes that demonstrations against President Reagan, mass pickets by the miners, anti-nuclear campaigns and protests against India by British Sikhs are all "abusing their privilege of living in a free country" and threatening the "whole fabric of our way of life. They are as dangerous as spies, informers and people who break their trust."

Heaven! By exercising my right to free speech and my right to demonstrate, I am abusing those rights?

"Freedom is a precious thing, never to be taken for granted," your writer tells us. Yes, freedom is precious, but it is more robust than your writer will allow.

He reminds us that it does not exist in two thirds of the world, that we should not take it for granted: short of all demonstrators in future wearing T-shirts saying, "I realise that I would not be allowed to make this demonstration in Soviet Russia", there is very little one can do to satisfy those who believe that because it is forbidden to protest in Russia, then it is somehow very bad taste to protest in England, somehow rather "ungrateful", or is even "dangerous" and "unreasonable".

As Mr Blake's letter indicates, huge numbers of people in this country are deeply dissatisfied, worried and angry, so let us for their sake settle this once and for all.

Either Britain is a free country or it is not. If it is a free country, those making use of their rights and freedoms are not abusing them. If it is not a free country, then for goodness sake let's start protesting about it right away. Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN FRY,  
14 Lancasterian Grange,  
Tower Street,  
Chichester, West Sussex.  
June 13.

## A plan for coal

From Dr Eric Chamberlain, FRSE

Sir, Every energy technologist will agree with Professor Ian Fells (June 1) that there is a need for a realistic and flexible "plan for coal". Indeed there has been no lack of "plans" since 1947; however there is also a dictum attributed, I believe, to Sir John Maud that "the only prediction of future energy requirements that will prove correct is the prediction that it will be proved wrong".

The reason is, of course, that the lead time to bring about a major coal development is of the order of 10 years, but that major international crises bring about changes in energy requirements in a matter of weeks! Hunting the Snark is indeed child's play compared with the forward planning of coal requirements.

Yours faithfully,  
E. CHAMBERLAIN,  
Donnybrook,  
Kewferry Drive,  
Northwood, Middlesex.  
June 1.

## Short shrift

From Mr P. G. Ayres

Sir, Wing Commander J. E. Tyrrell (May 29) would receive a far better haircut if he gave his granddaughters a pair of scissors and a big kiss than waste time on a visit to the barber's.

not to mention the financial benefits. My appearance improved considerably when I took this step. Yours sincerely,  
P. G. AYRES,  
The Topshop,  
College Road,  
Windermere, Cumbria.







## 35

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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

### Best consensus emerging on stock market reform

The great Stock Exchange schism will no doubt be with us for a while yet, but there is a healing process at work. Already something near a consensus is emerging about the pattern of change to the market's trading system demanded by the commitment to end minimum brokers' commissions and the breaking down of the single capacity principle.

The essence and some of the detail of this consensus were first explored in this column last month. They are well set out in the response of the City Capital Markets Committee to the Stock Exchange discussion document, sent to the Council at the end of May but only now published. The Committee, which brings together both stock market firms and users, interested accountants and lawyers, with an unstated dash of guidance from the Bank of England, proved prescient before when it coolly laid out the case for measured but revolutionary change. Its latest analysis thus has a dual authority.

The emerging consensus is that change must be staged, starting with the areas of international trading in large companies, stocks where it is most obviously essential and then spread, on the basis of experiment and experience, to the second and third line stocks that are important equally for domestic trading and the private investor.

There will initially be a two-tier market. For trading in leading shares, the competing market maker system, with dual capacity, will replace the jobber-broker split. The rebel smaller brokers now accept this. As the Capital Markets Committee suggests this will require a full tickertape service recording best bid and offer prices and the volume and price of last transactions. The experience of NASDAQ, the US over-the-counter network, has convinced the Stock Exchange Council that this need not queer the market maker's pitch because it encourages heavier trading.

Meanwhile, the market for second and third line stocks can maintain 9 more or less formal split between jobber dealers and broker agents, since the initial pressure on commissions will be less. The experience in the top shares will then determine whether the market-maker system should extend to more shares along with the tickertape required to ensure clients they are dealing at true market prices, as is now happening on NASDAQ.

There will also be experiments with electronic matching of buy and sell orders on the model of Ariel to see how markets may be maintained in smaller stocks as the more cost-conscious competitive system spreads down the line. The second tier may eventually evolve into an American-style electronic over-the-counter market.

Such a development would still leave problems for some brokers, particularly medium-sized firms with institutional business, but it would allow the market to become more competitive with minimum disruption and at the same pace as the spread of new means of investor protection.

#### More light needed on Inmos

The Government's decision last week to turn down the plan by a group of City institutions to put £30m of new capital into Inmos, the controversial state-funded microchip manufacturer, has not yet been fully explained. The clear impression given by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Government minister for high technology and all things futuristic, was that the idea had

been turned down because it undervalued what the company was worth.

The deal, put together by Hill Samuel, would have involved the institutions taking just under 30 per cent of the equity, putting a price tag of over £100m on the whole business which is now at last making money in a modest way after six years and £105m of Government equity and loans. This compares with the £200m that the optimists at Inmos and the DTI think the company could be really worth.

If undervaluation was one factor, there appears to be another. One of the conditions which the institutions attached to their willingness to put up new money was that the existing management should be beefed up. The great and the good in the City were not too impressed with the overall strength at the top of the company despite the undoubted brilliance of Mr Ian Barron, the one remaining founder boffin still working full-time for the company. If they were going to be asked to stump up new chunks of money at regular intervals, the institutions clearly felt they would want to be sure the company was under a tight rein.

#### Happy discoveries on money supply figures

Serendipity is the faculty for making happy discoveries by accident. Horace Walpole who coined the word 200 years ago, would have understood the latest set of detailed money supply figures.

A week ago, just as the London summit clanked into inaction, the gilt market was beaten into submission by outline money supply figures for the May banking month. Against market fears of an expansionary figure of perhaps 2 per cent of £M3, the Bank of England announced a preliminary figure of just 7/4 per cent. Market fears that interest rates were set to rise were still.

Almost as you might have expected yesterday's explicit version of the original outline data suggested at least to the suspicious-minded, that the tiny rise in £M3 owed a lot to a series of happy accidents.

For example, the underlying demand for bank credit (bank lending to the private sector) seasonally adjusted, was fairly constant last month, at about £1.5 billion. At the level where it is included in the £M3 calculations, the figure is set off against the Bank of England's holdings of commercial bills. In the early months of the year, the bill mountain rose to accommodate corporate tax payments. Last month the bill mountain began to subside. In the process, a £1.5 billion bank lending figure was transformed into a total private sector contribution to domestic credit expansion of £0.6 billion.

The bank can argue that such a happy conjunction of events is no more than a true reflection of credit demand in the economy. As a view, this has a certain validity, if only because the anticipated rise in base rates has so far failed to materialize.

But other aspects of the detailed £M3 data also invite some scepticism. Gilt traders pointed to the net repayment of debt by local authorities and nationalized industries.

After opening firmly girls swung round yesterday after publication of the detailed banking May data, leaving the ultra-longes unchanged, and shorts just a quarter better. The slight steepening of the yield curve, and the implicit flight into quality, casts a further cloud over the funding programme. Good May PSBR figures next Monday would help sentiment no end.

## Jaguar set for record profit after £18m first quarter

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Workers at Jaguar Cars will qualify for free shares worth up to £450 each when the luxury car maker - now on course for another record year of profits - is floated on the Stock Exchange, in the next few weeks.

The generous employee share scheme was disclosed yesterday as BL announced details of the impending Jaguar flotation, the first important step in the Government's long-term plan for returning as much of BL as possible to the private sector.

The announcement was coupled with the publication of Jaguar's profits in the first quarter of this year. With sales in the United States still buoyant the company made a pretax profit of £18m, leaving it well placed to beat last year's full-year figure of £55.9m, itself the best in Jaguar's history.

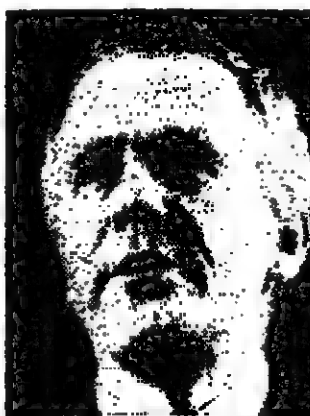
The company's pretax profit in 1982 was just £7.7m, and in

the previous two years, according to figures disclosed yesterday, it made losses totalling £79m, underlining the radical turnaround in the company's fortunes that has made a stock market flotation feasible.

Yesterday's statement confirms that the entire share capital of Jaguar will be offered to investors, despite the unsuccessful campaign by the BL board to retain a 25 per cent minority interest after privatization.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, initially supported BL's plan, but was overruled in Cabinet.

A firm date for the flotation has still not been agreed, and the proposals will have to be put to a special meeting of the 67,000 surviving minority shareholders in BL before it can take place. The target date is



Egon: sales up 13 per cent

known, however, to be the second half of next month.

City estimates are that the issue should raise at least £250m. A total of £3.5m is being put aside from Jaguar's profits to finance the initial free share

offer to Jaguar's 9,350 employees. Of these, 8,000 will qualify for £450 worth of shares, and the remainder - new employees - will qualify for £105 worth of shares. Jaguar also intends to introduce a share option scheme for senior executives.

The small group of private shareholders in BL will be given preferential application and allotment rights in the flotation, but will not qualify for any free or cut-price Jaguar shares.

Commenting on the first-quarter profit figures, Mr John Egon, Jaguar's managing director, said that sales were running 13 per cent higher so far this year.

Jaguar's annual production of cars has increased from 13,000 to 32,000 in three years, and it is still not meeting demand.

Jaguar's 1983 report and accounts show that its £55.9m pretax profit last year was made on sales of £476m.

#### Maxwell 'to reduce role at BPCC'

By Philip Robinson

Mr Robert Maxwell is to stand down as chief executive of British Printing Communication Corporation. He told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that he wanted more time to consider the takeover of the discount house Jessel, Toynbee and Gillett, the chairman of Mercantile House, so I would not like to say any more at this stage.

Mr Maxwell, who will remain chairman, is widely tipped as a possible buyer of either Fleet Holdings, publishers of the Daily Express, Sunday Express and Daily Star, or for Mirror Group Newspapers, which owns the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, Sporting Life, Sunday People and the Sunday Mail and Daily Record in Scotland.

Read International, owners of Mirror Group, has denied it intends anything other than a stock market flotation for M G N. Fleet has not commented on speculation that Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier, may sell his stake or bid for the group. Mr Maxwell said yesterday he was still "not sure" whether he was "fully" but would not say whether talks had taken place with either newspaper group owners.

For three years Mr Maxwell has concentrated on turning BPCC from a £12m loss to a £22m profit in 1984. Yesterday he forecast that profits for the year to January 1985 would be substantially higher and the dividend would be lifted 50 per cent to 9p with 3p paid on "excellent" interim results in July and 6p on the final figures.

Yesterday afternoon BPCC was said to be liquidating half of a £52m investment trust for which it bid in shares. The proceeds will clear debts and with Pergamon, will give Mr Maxwell the facility to raise several hundred million pounds.

#### EEC first for oil flotation

The first prospectus prepared according to European Commission directives will be unveiled next week when Enterprise Oil is brought to market. However, earlier fears that the prospectus would be rendered unintelligible by the European legislation have now faded.

A series of intensive negotiations between the Stock Exchange, the Government, merchant bankers and the company have unravelled most of the technical complexities.

The new-style prospectus will set the standards for British Telecom and Jaguar privatization prospectuses later this year and for private listings which must comply with the new regulations from January 1.

Mr John MacArthur of Kiewit, Benson, the lead bank for the flotation, said: "We have really been the pioneers in this but a lot of groundwork has now been done which will save time and effort for others."

#### Mercantile House merger in danger

By William Kay, City Editor

For the second time in a fortnight one of the City's potentially epoch-making series of mergers is in danger of foundering.

The recent collapse in the share price of Mercantile House has led to a renegotiation of its proposed takeover of the discount house Jessel, Toynbee and Gillett, the chairman of Mercantile House, so I would not like to say any more at this stage.

Mr Reeve stressed that Mercantile House had as yet taken no decision. He agreed the share fall had "created a situation that suggests a possible re-examination of the terms", but added this in no way affected plans to take a 29.9 per cent stake in the stockbroker-firm Laiting and Cruickshank, involving a mixture of cash and equity options.

Since the Mercantile-Jessel deal was unveiled on May 14, Mercantile's shares have fallen from 368p to 252p. This has cut the value of the three-for-10 share exchange from 110p per Jessel share to 75p. Jessel shares closed last night at 86p.

The first closing date for the offer is Monday, when the Jessel board is due to meet. Unless there are better terms, the directors are under strong pressure from shareholders to withdraw their recommendation to accept.

Mr Michael Toynbee, chairman of Jessel, Toynbee and Gillett, said yesterday: "Obviously something will have to be done fairly quickly. I am in the middle of discussions with Mr Barkshire, the chairman of Mercantile House, so I would not like to say any more at this stage."

Mr Reeve stressed that Mercantile House had as yet taken no decision. He agreed the share fall had "created a situation that suggests a possible re-examination of the terms", but added this in no way affected plans to take a 29.9 per cent stake in the stockbroker-firm Laiting and Cruickshank, involving a mixture of cash and equity options.

Mercantile has already had to adjust the Jessel terms once. Between the initial announcement and the publication of the formal offer document 10 days later, Mercantile shares had fallen 53p to 315p, valuing Jessel shares at 94p on the three-for-10 basis. So a sweetener was added - an option to take half the offer in loan notes. But that alternative lapses on Monday.

Mr Toynbee made no secret of his original reluctance to the bid,

#### CJR and Hambro plan link

By Jonathan Clare

Hambro Life Assurance is exploring the possibility of using its salesmen to introduce the financial services offered by Charterhouse J. Rothschild to its clients.

Mr Sydney Lipworth, Hambro Life's deputy chairman, this was one way of establishing closer links between the two companies in the wake of the failure to consummate a full-blown merger.

Mr Mark Weinberg, Hambro Life's chairman said yesterday that Mr Jacob Rothschild and Viscount Weir of CJR would strengthen the Hambro Life board.

He told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting: "In addition to their contribution as members of our board they and other directors of CJR have indicated that they will be active in introducing us to potential sources of business."

He added that Hambro Life would benefit from the coordination of CJR's investment management with its own. He also told about 25 shareholders - who asked no questions - that the sale by Hambros Bank Group of its 24.9 per cent stake in Hambro Life to CJR was not unfavourable for the company despite the abandoning of the merger plans.

#### Shares fall 18.3 points

Shares dropped sharply yesterday as US economists predicted a 10 per cent inflation rate in the US.

The FT 30 share index closed at its lowest of the day, down 18.3 points at 816.2. The wider measurement index, the FT-SE 100, was off by 20.9 points to 1043.8.

Leading the market down were banks, 2.5 per cent lower, chemicals on Beecham's disappointing results, motors and oils.

Government stocks, however, shrugged off the gloom and the FT government securities index ended the day a shade higher at 78.83.

#### STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1043.8 down 20.9  
FT Index: 816.2 down 18.3  
FT Gilt: 78.83 up 0.15  
FT All Share: N/A  
Bargains: 17.985  
Dustbins: 17.985  
Index: 103.31 down 1.39  
New York: Dow Jones Average: (latest) 1099.93 down 10.60  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 1,148.73 down 127.20  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 953.15 down 8.07

#### CURRENCIES

##### LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.3860 up 5pts  
Index 79.5 unchanged  
DM 3.7725 up 0.0050  
FF 11.5925 up 0.0125  
Yen 160.00 down 1.25  
Index 131.1 down 0.1  
DM 2.7195 up 0.0035  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.3855  
Dollar DM 2.7215

#### INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates 9.9%  
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2%  
Discount market loans week fixed 8-6  
3 month interbank 9% - 9 1/4%  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 11 1/2% - 11 3/4%  
3 month DM 5 1/4% - 5 3/4%  
3 month Fr 13 1/4% - 12%  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate 12.50  
Fed funds 11  
Treasury long bond 9 3/4% - 9 7/8%  
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period May 2 to June 5, 1983 inclusive: 9.719 per cent.

#### GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
am \$378.00 pm \$375.60  
close \$374.75-375.25 (£270.50-271.00)  
New York (latest): \$375.75  
Kruggerand (per coin):  
\$385.00-387.50 (£278.75-279.75)  
Sovereigns (new):  
\$88.00 - 89.00 (£53.50-54.25)  
\*Excludes VAT

## Staveley Industries plc

# "Profits before tax increased by an impressive 48%"

W.K. ROBERTS, Chairman

#### YEAR'S RESULTS

£ millions

|                   | 83/84 | 82/83 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| Sales             | 173.0 | 156.7 |
| Trading Profit    | 9.0   | 7.1   |
| Profit before tax | 6.36  | 4.28  |

- Earnings per share up 49%
- Increased final dividend

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### NEI poised to win £100m order

Britain is likely to win an order worth more than £100m to supply the turbine equipment for a power station being built in Iraq by the Korean engineering group Hyundai.

The four 300MW generating turbines are likely to be built by NEI Parsons on Tyne-side, although no official contract has yet been placed.

● **ENGLISH CHINA CLAYS**, the world's biggest producer, has increased its profits across the board to turn in £22.4m, against £17.3m for the first half. Turnover rose from £213m to £265m. The interim dividend has been increased from 3.25p to 3.6p.

● **The British & Commonwealth Shipping Company** has increased pretax profits for the year to December 31 1983 to £58.5m from £36.8m. Turnover increased from £349.6m to £350.3m. The final dividend of 9.5p makes 17.5p for the year, against 15.5p last time. *Temper*, page 17

● **Beecham** is to pay a final dividend of 5.6p, making 10.2p (9.1p) for the year to March 31, 1984, after announcing a rise in pretax profits to £268m (£237m). Sales totalled £1.9 billion (£1.7 billion).

● **Syndicate number 553** at Lloyd's which has 500 members, including Mr W.K. Roberts, Miss Virginia Wade, the tennis stars, has exceeded the underwriting limits set by the Lloyd's authorities.

#### Public spending gap

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The revised and summer supplementary estimates for 1984-85 presented to the Commons yesterday show that the Government has so far used up only £22.6m out of its £2.750m public spending reserve for this financial year.

However, the estimates do not provide for the extra cost of the nurses' pay settlement, which will account for about another £233m, per over-spending by local authorities. The system of estimates prepared for Parliament still does not square with the

planning figures for public expenditure, which makes them unhelpful to students of public spending in or out of the Commons. The supplementary estimates show an increase of £710m, largely offset by a reduction of £573m in revised estimates, a shift which partly reflects the abolition of the National Insurance surcharge.

But only £619m of the increase counts as public expenditure, of which all but £226m is absorbed into existing programmes, after allowing for the National Insurance change.

#### British undercut rivals for Hongkong contracts

### Closing in on the Japanese

From John Lawless, Hongkong

The British are at last starting to beat the Japanese on price when bidding for export contracts.

British government trade specialists in Hongkong are able to cite three recent deals - after fierce tussles - contracts were won with bids that were significantly cheaper than those of Japanese competitors.

One company took an order for a container crane with a bid that was 20 per cent cheaper than the Japanese bid.

Mr James Smith Laitan, Hongkong's trade commissioner, said: "It is normally the other way around."

What makes that even more impressive is the fact that the British technology was also much better and the delivery date promised was considerably earlier. In the other deals, the British have beaten the Japanese

to a £7m lift contract for a new office block, and to the supply of £4m worth of hydraulic platforms for a new ferry terminal.

Japanese companies, having secured a large slice of the Hongkong import market, as the second supplier of goods after China, are almost certainly trying to increase their profits per contract. Several Western competitors believe that, in a significant number of cases and in many more markets, the Japanese have been "buying" market share with below-cost quotes.

Japan last year sold HK\$40.3 billion (£3.7 billion) worth of goods to Hongkong, compared with sixth-placed Britain's HK\$37.5 billion.

But Mr Smith Laitan added: "We have just generally got our unit price down in Britain."

The competitiveness of sterling against the US dollar, to which the Hongkong dollar is tied, has been important. It suggests that Britain could also now be extremely well-placed in the US, its major market for manufactured goods, against the Japanese.

It is, however, even more significant that the orders were won in Hongkong. With its traditional ability to be "last in and first out" of recession, Hongkong is ahead in the upswing of world trade. First quarter exports this year were 51 per cent up on the same quarter of last year. "Although it has a population of only 5.5 million, Hongkong is the world's 18th largest trading economy," said Mr Len Dunning, executive director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.



## YOUR OWN BUSINESS

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**PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND**  
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This dividend will be paid as from 22nd June, 1984, against presentation of Coupon No. 30 at the Company's Paying Agent in the United Kingdom: **S. G. WARBURG & CO. LTD.**

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SELECTED RISK INVESTMENTS SA  
30 JUNE 1984.







## APPOINTMENTS

Alexander  
to head  
Biba again

The British Insurance Brokers' Association: Mr A. V. Alexander, chairman of Sedgwick Group Underwriting Services, and a non-executive director of Sedgwick Group, has been re-elected chairman of the association. Mr Brian Denney, of Denney O'Hara, was also re-elected as deputy chairman, with Mr David Palmer, chairman and chief executive of Willis Faber, also being appointed a deputy chairman of the association.

Exco International: Mr John L. Sangster has become chairman after the retirement of Mr Hilton Clarke, who will remain on the board as a non-executive director.

Sun Alliance: Mr B. A. Wright, general manager, life division, has joined the boards of Sun Alliance and London Insurance and its principal subsidiaries.

Cooper City & Co: Mr Donald Beggs has been appointed a director.

Intelsat: Mr Carlos Herrera De La Rosa, of Spain, has been elected as chairman and Mr Joel R. Alper, of the United States, as vice-chairman. They will serve for one-year terms from July 1984 up to and including June 1985.

National Westminster Bank: Mr Tom Frost, general manager of business development division, is to become a deputy group chief executive of the bank in succession to Mr Gordon Jones, who left on January 31, 1983. Mr Terry Green, deputy general manager of NatWest's international banking division, will succeed Mr Frost as general manager of business development division on the same date.

## Hongkong stock market grows up



Mr Robert Fell (left), Hong Kong's commissioner for securities, is engineering big changes in the stock exchanges there. Jonathan Clare reports.

Cynics can be forgiven for thinking that the Hong Kong stock market, with its four separate stock exchanges, is unworthy of a colony that has emerged since the 1950s as the world's third most important financial centre after New York and London. But Mr Robert Fell, Hong Kong's Commissioner for Securities, is greatly irritated by any suggestion that his office oversees a Mickey Mouse system.

Neither New York nor London would for a moment contemplate a market structure that sometimes allows a share suspended on one market to be traded on another. And the disclosure requirements, much tougher since Mr Fell's efforts in 1981, are still lax by most standards.

Mr Fell is well aware of the shortcomings but is defensive about some of the local market's practices. First, Hong Kong is a volatile market by nature not because of the system, he says. The dealing system, which to eyes accustomed to London or New York looks like a clash between football supporters with elbows frothy and on the dealing floor, does have advantages. There is 24-hour cash settlement and it is one of the few markets in the world where you can watch your deals being done.

The girls who chalk the boards are faster than your average computer - "They can clear a board in 25 seconds," says Mr Fell.

But big changes are on the way for two reasons.

First, the change in the shape of the market being engineered by Mr Fell and, second, the interest being developed by the Communist Chinese.

If it is silly, says Mr Fell, the size of Hong Kong, where all the financial institutions are within walking distance of each other, have four stock exchanges. By

1986, the four will be unified, which will also allow a quotations department to be established to oversee the market and ensure fair play.

The new stock exchange, in Hong Kong Land's Exchange Square development, probably the biggest property development in Asia, will spell the loss of the chalk boards and their replacement by individual computer screens. But there will be four "pits" where deals will be made face-to-face.

One of the most important aspects is that the unified exchange will stop that nonsense of shares being suspended on one exchange but not another.

But the unified exchange can only be the start of the development of Hong Kong's stock market into a mature system which matches the expertise of the colony in other financial areas. There is little merchant banking structure; there is no equivalent of the City code; there is no relationship between stockbrokers and companies; stockbrokers rarely bring companies to the market; lawyers dominate corporate finance to an extent unthinkable in London.

The list is endless. Some progress had been made since the heady days of 1980-91. Since 1981, companies have

been obliged to disclose if they have built up a stake of 35 per cent in another company and bid for the whole.

This level is high by most standards (though prospectuses need full disclosure) but at least the Hong Kong investment community is playing the game and requests for disclosure is no longer ignored.

However, standards are different and there are instances of culpable being handled before the commissioner and lying. Mr Fell recalls that Mr Alex Au, chairman of Conic, a local electronics company, was one of his first customers when he went public.

"He lied to me," says Mr Fell. Conic subsequently ran into financial difficulties and returned to the market only last Monday after a suspension, courtesy of a rescue operation mounted by the mainland Chinese. Mr Au meanwhile has disappeared.

Part of the problem is that Chinese investors tend to regard the distinction between private and public companies as unimportant. Often the public company is controlled by the privately owned parent company with little regard for the niceties of separate accounting.

Thus Conic - which is incidentally a main sub-contractor for Mr Cecil Kernau's

Triemco 2000 electronic communications system - made a loan to its private parent.

In a roundabout way, the events surrounding Conic please Mr Fell because the troubles led to the emergence of the first company on the Hong Kong stock market controlled by Red China. He regards a statement from the Chinese about what went wrong at Conic as a model that the world's other stock markets could do worse than follow.

The seven-page document, issued to the market last week ahead of Monday's re-listing, was put together without the help of a merchant bank and, more importantly, marks the coming of age of the communists in Hong Kong's financial affairs.

The feeling now is that the Communist Chinese are ready to emerge as big players in the market. There is little doubt locally that billions of Hong Kong dollars are involved.

China has also built up its interests in Hong Kong's scarcest commodity, land. The most recent foray is the purchase of a small stockbroker, Chung Mao, by a Bank of China subsidiary.

The Chinese have still to play the same in London's way - tales of announcements about deals which are "to be done next week" are legion. That said, there can be little doubt that before long a Communist Chinese will have a direct quote on the Hong Kong market (as opposed to Conic where the quote was indirect, the result of an earlier investment in the company).

The Hong Kong press has been full of rumours that Everbrite, probably the best known of the Peking companies, is to seek a quote. Nevertheless, the possibility is strenuously denied by the company.

An alternative possibility is that Peking will set up its own

stock market, something that China has not had since 1949. Consideration has been given to the idea but Mr Fell believes that mainland China would be better off using the established market in Hong Kong. The People's Republic's interest is probably as much due to the changing nature of the companies quoted on the Hong Kong market as to anything else.

As a result of the impending Chinese takeover, Hong Kong companies look like reverting to being valued on earnings rather than assets - in other words the emphasis is beginning to switch to industrial rather than property-based stocks.

The novelty of industrial companies has led to speculation in what is in any case a traders' market. Hong Kong manufacturing companies tend to grow fast in their infancy but the transformation to mature company with a turnover of say, HK\$500m (£45m) is a test of management ability.

Until Sir Geoffrey Howe's ill-received speech in April, which caused the collapse of the Hang Seng Index, a record number of new issues was expected this summer. But many have been withdrawn. This week has seen publication of details of the first company to go for a listing since April - Gold Peak, one of the world's biggest battery manufacturers. More may now follow.

Some investors blame the market's fall on Jardine, Matheson's decision to re-register in Bermuda. Others believe the market was looking for an excuse to sell and Jardine was merely the catalyst.

Whatever the reason, Hong Kong's stock market will remain one of the world's most volatile, albeit better regulated and more sophisticated in the years preceding the Chinese takeover than in its spectacular heyday.

## ROWING

Henley is a sell-out  
with a record cast

By Jim Railton

Henley Royal Regatta (June 28-July 1) has attracted a record 307 crews, including 59 from 11 overseas countries. The cost of the event will exceed £500,000 for the first time. The show is a sell-out. Such is Henley. An added attraction will be the British men's Olympic team, competing before they leave for their training camp in San Diego.

There is no Eastern block entry in this Olympic boycott yet, the nearest to such a representation being a double scull and Grand eight from Spandau in West Berlin.

In the 1980 Olympic boycott year, all six top trophies went to the United States, Canada and Argentina. Last year Great Britain's best oarsmen took five of the top titles, surrendering only the Stewards to the Swiss world champions. The Grand will be defended by the national eight in the hands of Leander and London, with opposition from Denmark, West Germany and the American universities of Yale, Washington and Pennsylvania.

The Diamond Sculls has attracted a few glittering stars among its 34 entries, including the holder, Steve Redgrave, the possible favourite, Cooper, of New Zealand, the hardy annual, Baillet, the world light-weight champion, Elang, of Denmark, the runner-up, Melvin, from London, and the star veterans, Cooks and Matheson, of Britain.

Cooks and Matheson combine for the Double Sculls and could be favourites if they do not run out of steam after countless voyages down the Henley course. Doubling up will be a nightmare for the stewards.

The Prince Philip should be a foregone conclusion with the British four competing as Marlow.

With the Olympics devalued, this year's top regatta is at Lacarne this weekend and involves 16 nations. The Swiss Union will be conspicuous by their absence but East Germany will set the standard on the Rotsee. Lucerne acts as the final Olympic trials for many Western nations, including Great Britain, who have entered eight men's heavyweight and seven women's crews. There will be two finals, with qualifying over three days and 19 hours of racing.

Baillet will be after an inspired performance to try to cap an uneven year. The British men's eight, with five silver medalists from the 1980 Olympics, still seems to be wasted at bow in the corseul four. Great Britain's brightest start on the horizon are the coxed four, with victories in Mannheim, Essen and a creditable second in East Germany.

Great Britain boast their fastest ever women's eight, who have collected notable scalps, including West Germany and Romania.

Great Britain's Olympic team will be selected on Wednesday and is likely to be a large one.

## Paddling to Los Angeles



Built for endurance: West and Sheriff in silent communication (Photograph: Norman Lomax)

Twin windmills  
tilting for  
golden splendour

In the second of his series on sportsmen and women competing for Britain in the Olympic Games.

SIMON BARNES talks to two canoeists with high hopes of winning a medal.

Life has its compensations for canoeists. For them, sport is not all sweat and embrocation and sun-baked skin. The river's roof of green leaves, the quacking of the ducks and the air filled with the Thames's own unique smell, days when any man of the river has the chance to go boating along in boats.

"There are days when you go out knowing you are going to enjoy yourself thoroughly. I mean, people enjoy paddling about. Anyone can enjoy paddling at any level - it is just that some have taken it to extremes." So said Andy Sheriff, 50 per cent of one of Britain's potential Olympic crews. He and Jeremy West are gunning for a medal in the K2 500 metres. K stands for kayak, which means sitting down with a twin-bladed paddle that you whip like a windmill, and not knowing up with a single-bladed.

On the other hand, neither West nor Sheriff look likely to become Britain's first canoeing millionaires. "It is such an easy sport to enjoy, and it is a real shame that more people don't take it up," Sheriff said, but canoeing is not an instantly fashionable, and comes at the wrong end of the line for financial support. The 10,000 metres world champion, Alan Williams, received a grant of £150 from the Sports Aid Foundation to see him through the year.

## Snort of derision

Sheriff is a competent engineer as well as a canoeist, and since he has made himself into a genuine medal prospect, he is now an offer frequent visitor to his "gentleman employer" in Guildford. His office is 10 minutes from the river, which means that with an elastic lunch hour he can get his necessary daily double helping of "real life" and "his employer's leniency allows time off for competition, and to travel down to the Royal Canoe Club at Hampton Wick to paddle the Olympic boat with West.

West is in the middle of a degree course in mathematics and sports science, and explained that he was in the middle of a sabbatical, a term that brought a sort of derision from club mates around him: "Sabbat-

cal", he repeated, unperturbed. "You must admit it sounds a lot better than derision." In short, West is on the dole.

Britain's deputy Olympic canoeing coach, John Fowler, was bitter on their behalf. "It sounds nice and quaint, doesn't it? True blue amateurs. Makes a nice story for you. But these people are world class athletes, without the world class back-up they deserve. It costs some £12 to see a physio - how many times can you afford that when you are on the dole?"

It is frustrating to know that you are so good an athlete, and that you could be even better with more time and more money. They see what the other nations spend - the Canadians spend more on their top K2 boat than we do on our entire team squad.

## A going concern

The firm of Sheriff and West has been a going concern for four years, on and off, and they work well together. Their season started disappointingly, the subsequent improvement has been more than satisfactory. "We are both fairly muscular," Sheriff said. "It is endurance that counts the work. That's good, because it is far easier to train for endurance than to work for explosive strength. We both have that quality naturally."

Perhaps the river was a mile too choppy for choice, but there was plenty of evening sun about, and a pleasantly cool breeze. There were lots of ducks and trees about the place. It was the start of a training session a million light years away from the crash and the snort of the gym. West and Sheriff lowered themselves into their fragile little boats and set off, paddles awhirl, twin windmills, twin sails tilting for Olympic splendour.

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